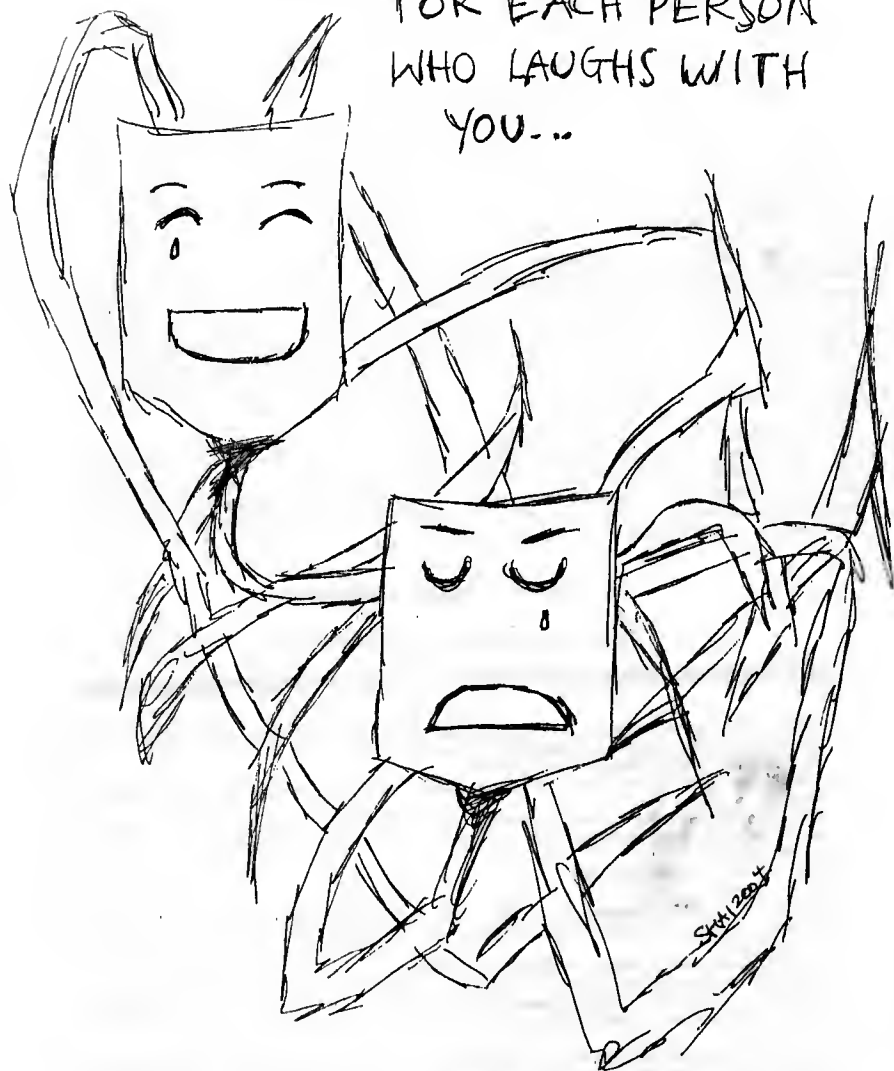


FOR EACH PERSON
WHO LAUGHS WITH
YOU...



... ANOTHER COULD POTENTIALLY
HURT YOU.

ZEROX #10

Late 2004. Last issue ever.



STONEHENGE Records
French emo hardcore punk label

KALASHNIKOV
opera inspired punkrock from Italy



DEAD CHRETIENS
Canadian pissed nihil punk bc

AMIR MUHAMMAD
independent film maker from Malaysia

DEMOCRAZY
fast positive hardcore, Indonesia

ORORKU x EDGE
the crutches and wheelchairs crew from Iceland

Artwork : Bangsall
By Bob Tempequality

INTERVIEWS. REVIEWS. INSIGHTS. CRITIQUES. ARGUABLE HYPOCRISY. CALAMITY.
DESPAIR. CHILDHOOD TALES, DEPRESSION. ARTWORK, THOUGHTS, HATRED, SPITE.
MUSIC, ANTI-MUSIC. ART, AND FALSE ART. IDEAS AND IDEALS AND IDEALISM. NOISE,
WORDS, TEXT. JOY. HOPE. DESPAIR. NON-CORPORATE PUNKROCK TOURING.
SENSITIVE AND HARSH IDEAS FOR YOUR HYPOCRITICAL BLINDED LIVES. HARDCORE.
PUNK. GRINDCORE. STRANGE LITTLE THINGS. AND LOTS AND LOTS OF LOVE...

The foreword you find irritating, but still read anyway....

So finally. The last issue of Zerox zine. #10. And 8 years of zinedom coming to an end. Thank you dear reader for reading this zine. Some of you have been reading the zine since its first issue. I thank you for that too. Its been fun, rushing deadlines (like 36 hours before my planned print time... which I should also add, was procrastinated ☺), typing, conducting interviews, making friends, doing reviews and so forth. And that was just the recent issues. The earlier ones were done with my handy typewriter, I remember screaming when I ran out of typewriter tape (I didn't use the old fashioned ink), using the back of school revision papers to type silly articles and so forth. Heck, Zerox #1 was completely handwritten. I remember Bigot zine actually stating in their review of that issue with "Yawn....should cost less." Haha! Back then I was funning, but now I agree with them. Haha.... Having said that, let me say this... CUT AND FUCKING PASTE FOREVER!!!!

Plenty of reasons. Now before I start rambling on and on, I will first like to state that it has been an honour to have people actually picking up these sheets of paper, read through them and come forward to tell me that they look forward to my next issue. Some compliment, some have argued against what I wrote. I don't care, because to me that's what communication is about. That's what the scene is about. Fuck, that's what being human is about. It's a big deal for me that you people appreciate (or stand against) what I've done, and even remember what I've said in my zine. Wow. It's an incredible feeling to do a zine. The friendships, the lessons, the joy, everything! That's a good enough advertisement for you to start one yourself. It's nothing about "scene status", free CDs for review or that bullshit (though its also a fact that everyone calls me Shaiful Zerox now because of my most recognized contribution to HC punk). Once again, thank you.

As much as I disagree to what they (RSC) do I would never thrust a knife in their backs or spit in their faces.

6 SHORTS by Amir Muhammad (VCD) : This is how I came about knowing this controversial short film director from Malaysia. As detailed in the interview some pages before this, this is a showcase of 6 of his 'silent' docu-films. His style is to capture scenes in real time, no rehearsals no pre-planned stuff or any of that. There is no voiceover or commentary, though subtitles appear at just the right time to shed light on his thoughts at any particular moment. A story of a missing identity card, an abstract look at the before and afters of Friday prayers in a typical Malaysian city setting, a feature on the infamous "acry bomb" Mona Fandey (I still remember following news reports on her when I was an innocent and scared 10 year old), a hilarious lampooning of the biased customs, a provoking look at a prison visit and an intriguing look at a friend who is 'gone'. Brilliant. See interview for contact info. Distributed also by Papakarma Distro at www.papakarma.cjb.net

ON DE GIKS by Marjtaal (VCD) : Man in this whole band and Tempequality Kolckitf amazing or what? They paint, print, record and produce their own stuff. This video just shows how committed they are about their art and way of living. Besides showing videoclips of some Marjtaal shows (which is crazy, and attended by at least 1,000 people (and that's just those within view), this also showcases some of their 'music videos' which is brilliantly shot and carefully curated. Also in the video is their community-involving Print Workshops as well as an anti-globalisation protest with videos of them marching though the streets clad in bodypaint with an ARMY of punks, activists and regular village folk (and kids too) marching alongside them. And like everything else done by the collective, this is anti-copyright. [tempequality@doityourself.com : PO Box 7735, JKS, LA Jakarta 12077, INDONESIA]

OUR PLEA FOR PEACE? by Lompat Records (VCD) : Sick and bored of audio samplers? How's a video sampler for a change? Features 9 bands from Malaysia and Singapore, and this video CD features interviews with Secret 7, Jahilia and Nostalgia, as well as live clips from The Bollocks, Banzai 606, Global Deficiency, Mass Separation, Reconstruct, Recover as well as the bands interviewed. All shots captured at the Mass Separation "Tak Mau Lagi" release party in Malaysia in April 2003. [Lompat Records@ azmi, T280 Jalan Siantan, Taman Seri Telok Datok, 42700 Banting, Selangor DE MALAYSIA : pjcecs08id@hotmail.com]

Finally, the end of those fucking reviews!

That we would all, someday maybe, will learn to live

And last but not least, my parents who supported me by not throwing this away. I know you hate the fact that I am what I am, and not what you wished me to be. You nagged and threatened to throw all this away. Which you never did. By not destroying this and not shutting me up, is perhaps the best you ever did.

Thank you so fucking much.

2

V/A - THE LION CITY DIY SCENE FOR DUMMIES (CDr) : I think I'll be tagged as an ego-tripping bastard because I keep reviewing compilations my band appears on. But its not my fault that I have the energy, guts and audacity to want to do everything in the scene, unlike you lazy scumbags can I? Anyway enough of self defense, now lets talk about this. A Cdr sampler with some bc punk emo bands here from grind (Fallen World), bc (Social Intergration, Jahilia), whiny emo / punkrock (The Subsistence, One Eighty, Kate of Kale), and more. released by Bonafide Defiance and 60 Fattest Stereo Rarekurts. [cant read the address so surf on to www.wakeup.to/60fattest]

V/A - THE MYTH OF THE CLEAN KILL - Benefit Comp for Duck Rescue (7") : The sport of shooting ducks for leisure has obviously ruffled a few feathers (and not just of the ducks) and this compilation seeks to benefit the cause financially and educationally. The insert is one jumbo sized paper with newspaper clippings on the issue as well as vego info educational stuff in a separate booklet. Music here is a diverse exhibit of punk from hc punk to folky anarcho punk. Bands involved are Price of Silence, Human Error, Noisam, Insyte and Flycop, all from Australia. Support the cause? Write to [Human Error Records, PO Box 751, Brunswick LWR VIC AUSTRALIA 3056]

V/A - UNDER NO BOUNDARIES (CDr) - this compilation CDr is titled Lioo City Crust Grind compilation which pretty much explains itself. The booklet is huge, the size of a 7" booklet. First band off is Statement Of Outrage which is justice-seeking anarcho crust punk, a style they really pulled off with their Malay-language tracks. Hudud is a blast of 3 angry grindcore tracks blending 'traditional' and 'transitional' grindcore. Distrust could very easily have been mistaken for any Scandinavian hc punk Dbeat because that's exactly what I thought it was. Pissed frustrated pounding hc punk. Volition sounds a lot more 'blastcore' than they used to be a few years back, when they were pretty average crust grind. Then again, all I ands get tighter the longer they stay together. MxAxC the acronym for Mission Against Corruption is raging bc punk crust and belf I song in Malay and another in English. Topsy Turvy has 4 tracks which are of the lowest quality and it sounds like it was recorded in a tunnel. Rejex are influenced by Wolfbrigade and ENT, and while they do remind me of those bands I don't think they actually quite sound alike. Maybe its an intended sound. Endless Struggle as far as I know used to be a crustcore band but have somehow drifted into being a growly hardcore band. I have mixed feelings about this project. While it is very evident that a considerable amount of effort has been put to this, I find the whole idea cliché, predictable and at some parts even laughable. Objectively, this is the best representation of crust grind in a while here in Singapore, negatively it's just too predictable. A Recharge Records and Epidemic Records release. [Epidemic c/o Zariif, Blk 381 Clementi Ave 5, #09-384, Singapore 120381, SINGAPORE : epidemic_distro@hotmail.com]

V/A - UP THE GRRRL (CD) : This is a compilation of grrl punk hc bands from Brazil. A fucking great display of Latina hc punk all across the country. No lyrics and no comprehensive bend info but regardless works as a window to their world. Biggs is uptempo hardcore punk, Bulimia, Shes and RTL are aggressive snotty hc punk, with a crust leaning. Hitch Lizard, Lava and Sandina are melodic hc punk and Kaos Klitoriano is straight up hardcore punk. Bands like Skirt, Staples tend to sound a little sugary though not exactly radio material. Witchery has this Samhain, Misfits feel to them and bands like Surface, Toxoplasme and Yolk give the in your face grrl core feel. A fair share of songs in their native tongue and in English. I enjoyed an am moved by most of the bands here, they all have a spirit and energy which makes this compilation worth it. And I'm not saying this just because Brazilian girls are cute, but because this compilation is filled with bands that rule and objectively, have something to say. [Panx, BP 5058, 31033 Toulouse Cedex 5, FRANCE : www.panax.net]

V/A - WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY EARS? (CDr) - OK I'm a bit confused, this is a CDr release but the sleeve and artwork is that of a tape and is professionally duplicated. It's a 24 band compilation of hc punk thrash grindcore. With a line up like Hudud, Bob Barker, FxPxOx, Gudang Garam, System Error and Taste Of Flesh amongst the rest, you know what to expect. Co released by Indonesia's Teriak Records and Endup Records of Malaysia. [Teriak Records, Jl. Pitam Rt 05 Rw 14 No 49, Depok 16436, INDONESIA : terbijurkaku@hotmail.com]

V/A - WORLD HARDCORE Volume II (7") : Limited to 300 an I have one. Cool. A 5 band release with Arm's Reach (straight up hc punk, Australia), Man In The Shadow (angry screamy post hc, Slovenia), True Blue (street hardcore, no idea where from), Dischord (dual vocalled bc crust punk from Brazil) and Hamilton (screamy post hc USA). All bands bothered to list lyrics so bravo! I enjoyed this. [Moo Cow Records, 38 Larch Circle, Belmont MA 02478, USA]

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Lampoon them? Maybe.

Talk shit about them? Well I have and they jolly well know it. And come on, face it, everyone talks shit. Don't tell me you haven't

Say "FUCK ROCKSTARCOLLECTIVE!"? Yeah I've done that a few times.

But spit on their faces? Say something good in front of them and a bad thing when they're gone? Be totally disrespectful to a collective who have done quite a lot for the scene, even though I don't agree to their ways of doing things? Never!

They are after all my friends (and I hope they still are after reading this!). I've hung out and worked with a few of them. Though I may never work with them again as far as punkrock is concerned, I will never interrupt what they do. I may disagree with my friends but to hate them just because they see things differently is fucking shallow.

Anyway back to Zerox...

The zine had to end sooner or later. Don't get me wrong, I love to write (in fact I'm working on a newsletter by the time you read this, more on that later), but financially this is taking its toll on me. Doing a zine and having last minute typing ordeals is still okay, going all the way to xerox stuff at a good price and quality at Ho Services doesn't really bother me at all. "Sales" have been okay to be honest. But procedures like posting them around isn't child's play anymore. Postage prices have reached crazy heights, postal regulations are increasingly tightening by the day. What's more in this post-terrorism age of surveillance, any content deemed "threatening to national security" (of which this zine is possibly guilty of by Singapore standards @) would subject its writer to detention without trial.

Remember I live in Singapore, a country not known for human rights. For those of you not familiar with Singapore, we aren't a 3rd world country per se. We have a country with little poverty and one with a competent economy. But we have a state which controls its people! If you have read George Orwell's 1984, then that's Singapore for you.

Zerox has always been - and since this is already in your hands - and still is "illegal". Zines are "illegal" (local zinesters take note. Remember anyone can sabotage your work). Any form of press that is sold (for profit or otherwise) would need a permit to be in operations. I never had such permits. I didn't believe in them. I don't even make a fucking profit anyway. Do I need a license to review hardcore, to write about punk shows and to diss the system? I don't think so. They wouldn't allow it anyway. And more significantly I don't want to be a statistic on their charts. WHY DO I NEED A LICENSE TO VOICE OUT WHAT IS ALREADY IN MY MIND?!

So what happens after this? Will I stop writing for good? Will I *gasp* leave the scene like the many others before me? Will I quit hardcore?!

Like I said, I will move on to a newsletter. The newsletter will be part of this multi-branched thing I'm forging into: PROHIBITED PROJECTS. It will consist of, besides the newsletter, a record label, an event organizing platform and more. I also book DIY hc punk bands who tour South East Asia under this project. Part of my plans include staging a play and producing a film.

PROHIBITED PROJECTS (Newsletter) will be a freesheet. With a major headlining article or interview, lots of paid ads (to pay for the printing costs, you idiot), lots of reviews and commentary. I'm trying to source for a newsprint plant, its way cheaper for producing something in bulk and lighter in weight hence justifying postage costs. Minimum 4 pages maximum 12 pages. Aiming for 1000 copies in its first print, and if things go well maybe 2000 copies in later issues. Quarterly print run. Look out for its first issue by 2005. This will already take up a majority of my time. And did I mention that I also have two bands to scream in (Lead II Nitrate and Rememories), and a part time solo noise project Han Yew Kwang? Add to that, quarterly South East Asian reports in Maximum Rock N Roll, and writing for a collective DIY HC punk publication with kids from Singapore, Malaysia and some other parts of South East fucking Asia. And the other columns I'm writing for other zines, and....

Shit, I'll be busy indeed. And I haven't even talked about non-scene related WORK!

(And how does one quit hardcore anyway...?)

xxx YOUTH TILL DEATH xxx

Shaful
Blk 554 Bedok North St 3,
#08-241 Singapore 460554,
SINGAPORE (Asia)
trashkore@yahoo.com
Please check out www.LIONCITYDIY.com



LION CITY RABAK CORE

The selfish bastard speaks...

Those close to me may have noticed that I've been a bit uptight about money lately. "Uptight" meaning that I've been slightly calculative about money. I'm actually taking care and keeping track of finances! And hey, guess what its about time I did that. Call me selfish? Fuck you.

Punkrock doesn't mean you should be fucking broke half the time. I hate the feeling of being broke. And anyway its not as if I'm keeping cash for my own selfish needs. I've already lost a lot of money on doing the zine (yes in recent issues I made a rough profit of maybe 60¢ for every issue of my zine sold, but I lose all that and more on postage sending the zines around especially when I trade), mailing packages of tapes, CDs and other zines, helping out with shows (I don't do shows anymore, more on that later) and jamming/recording with my 2 bands. And that was just the past.

With all my projects hitting off the hook soon, I'm going to have to be careful with my money. I have to practice. I can't keep losing money all the time because, well, I don't earn any money at all with what I do. Have 2 demos due out this year (maybe more), the much-anticipated Nose Candy full length CD, travelling on tour with Steve Towson and more. Since I don't believe in charging stupid prices for CDs (like some bands charge \$15. Hello?! You *siao ah?! Check out my Critique Of The Singapore Mentality* further down the zine), the least I can do is be careful with my money, I have to make sure every fucking dollar counts now, in order for me to still sell my releases for cheap prices.

Also, I freelance for work. We all know how much work fucking sucks, which is why I decided not to work full time for some idiot I don't care about. What do I freelance in? On a good month I would probably be involved in a theater production, or doing events related work. On a bad month I'm doing janitorial work, emptying bins, sweeping floors and disposing litter in smelly rubbish chutes. On fun months I'm on tour or at home working on columns and watching videos. I do intend to go into my own enterprise in the future. Once again not for status. But I would be lying if it wasn't for the money. Am I hoping for a lot of money? No. Just enough to get by with some reserves for a rainy day would do. I mean, I can't trade my zine with Starhub to clear my phone bills can I? I can't cook meals for the the grassroots politician guy and expect him to waive my housing loan can I?

But me? Running a business? Sure, business is hard stuff. I might be working 16 hour days if I have to. But essentially it's the closest I get to being in control of my life. The freedom of wanting to work on whatever I want, whenever I want. The state is already trying to squeeze the life out of me with taxes (and its almost about time I share paying the bills with my father), but the biggest pile of shit in life would be being a slave to a paycheck. I know its really cliché to say this but fuck you, I'll say it again. I don't want to sell my hours doing stuff I hate doing! WORK FUCKING SUCKS!

Hence more emphasis on money-control, since at the moment I don't have a fixed income. I also have to pay a phone bill, which averages \$70 to \$100 monthly. Money-control would be good practice because I know that some years from now I would also have to support my parents. I'm an only child. There will surely be a time where my parents can't work anymore. Who would be responsible for their welfare then? You? And you think all this "selfishness" is for my own needs? Then again, what needs do I have? Food, transport and all the stuff you read above. That's my life! It's not about getting a fucking car (having said that its convenient to have one, but no I can't afford that). Is it about marriage? Fuck I don't see myself married (if at all) till I'm at least 30. Or 35. All that headache is for later anyway.

Don't get me wrong I'm not a goody two shoes boy, but my parents have been to hell and back raising me (and im still giving them hell now by being the ultimate disappointment; a punkrocker. Hahaha...) and I'd like to return the favour. And I love my parents because they love me.

Am I still selfish? You decide.

Shaiful



given a page for their own contact addresses and stuff. [Farewell c/o Micha Meyer, PO Box 100205, 47002 Duisburg, GERMANY : farewellrec@plastic-bomb.de]

V/A - JAPAN YOUTH CREW compilation (tape) : I think the title of this is fucking obvious. 5 bands from Japan giving the craziest sing along hardcore anthems ever, all bands sing in English and sing about... well you know the typical expected youth crew topics. Unity, strength, backstabbers, friendship, positivity etc. features Stand To Last, Making Sense, Knee Jerk, Set Off and Main Strength. [One Voice Records, Robinson Road, Post Office PO Box 1610, Singapore 903210, SINGAPORE : <http://onevoice.hardwarezone.com>]

V/A - MUSICISFREE Vol 1 (CDr) : This is actually a free sampler CD that got passed to me at a gig. Features local bands like Chrysalids, My Precious, USV, Kate Of Kale and more. Genres are of all sorts from grind to punk to pop to indie. With some lyrics and band info. For some strange reason its put together by the National University of Singapore Original Music Society but since this is for free, its probably for a cause - to share music. [oms_mus@hotmail.com]

V/A - NO CRYING IN HARDCORE (CD) : 26 bands and 61 tracks of hardcore that all sounds the same. Torturous for me. Bands are from all over Indonesia and they're all fast hc, grindy hc, thrash bc or youthcrew hardcore that ends up sounding more like pisscore. Domestik Doktrin offered a really long and funny sample but apart from that everything was just a blur. No lyric sheets just addresses. I like thrash and applaud the effort but honestly, this got boring and redundant after a while. [Time Up Records c/o Falda Wan, Jl. Muhammadiyah Alif No 4, Rt 04/05 Depok 16425, INDONESIA]

V/A - NOIZZZE - JUST DO IT (2xCD) : A vast compilation of practically every slab of experimental noise/post-noise/breakcore/digicore/anti-music outfit out there. 2 CDs, 38 tracks chock full of everything ungeneric. It will take 5 pages to describe everything so I'll just name drop a few. David Thrussell, Sngg, Nexicon, Skeft, Nnt Half, Contra, Schizoid, deathiscom, Nick Lebeat, Hansel, Alex Dee, DHC Meinahf and lots and lots more. CD sleeve has a haunting poem on the dreaded atomic bomb. [PO Box 117, 220118, Minsk, BELARUS]

V/A - NORTH WEST (CDr) - an audio get together of experimental noise shit art computer/turntable sound manipulators from Singapore. All artists are in between statics, soundscapes and random deviations. Some are headache inciting (by intent) while some would just fit in nicely as an audio backdrop which accompanies you while you do some housework. Comprises of 3 Goddess, DIR, Underneath Blue Skies, dis_arm and Walls Of Silence. [My Funky Turntable c/o bogspeed@yahoo.co.uk]

V/A - SEVEN GATES OF HELL (CD) : 7 grind-based acts on 1 Cd. Beef Conspiracy kicks this off with sick growled technical gore grind, with Rotten Cold playing an almost similar style of modern grind. Dinn Addict go more death grind crust that just reeks of calamity. M.D.K. have a more lo-fi sound with direct sick grind amid a barrage of noise. Entrails Massacre have arguably the 'cleanest' sound here (funny I should say that!) merging grind with the most subtle bits of punk hc. Torture Incident are grind with elements of blurcore and pisscore, and some parts are as spastic as their full length CD released a couple years back. Peach Her which has elements of modern metal end this 38 track for-grindfreaks-only compilation. [reverbrind.ejb.net]

V/A - SONGS FROM A DISSIDENT WORLD Episode 2 (CDr) : I feel awkward reviewing this because my band is on it. I feel doubly awkward reviewing this because they put out the wrong song! The perils that come with DIY punkrock. Hahaha... anyway this is a sampler of international bc punk, with bands like Betercore, Sin Dios, Point Break, Assfort, Confronto and more. also includes artwork and info and is non copyright. Released by Sarta of Kalashnikov and KDV Records (see Kalashnikov interview for info)

V/A - TAKE NO HEROES - International Hardcore Compilation (tape) : Originally released on CD by European DIY labels, and the Malaysian DIY tape-crazy kids have decided to do an exact reissue. This time it's Tragas, Cactus, Kids Like e, Knot and United Front Records doing the job. Featuring 10 hardcore bands of varying styles (though all are within the DIY fast, socially aware, post-core spectrum) from all over the world. Features Pointing Finger, Razlog Za, No Violence, Feud, Only Way Out, Crickbat, The Mutiny, Sincerity, Cita Atticksme and Second Combat. Comes with a separate xeroxed lyric and info sheet [Cactus Distro c/o Wan Hazril, E4/366 Kampung Pulau Lang Kiri, 26800 Kuala Rompin, Pahang, MALAYSIA]

V/A - THE DATE FORK SEEPS THE RIVER (12") : If you're into the anti-music check this out. 63 tracks of all sorts of random freak experimental shit joke sounds, no music whatsoever. Featuring The Mary, Crank Surgeon, Nevea, Estragon Arafat & Vishnu Richelieu, Mike Duncan, Jobi...fuck I wont list them all! Also includes 4 'lock groove' tracks by Crank Surgeon, Roman The Edge, Guerraeterna and Id M Theft Able. Outrageously illogical. [Nauscopy Records, POB 141, Lancaster NH 03584, USA : www.nauscopy.com]

Try Cactus Distro [Cactus Distro c/o Wan Hazril, E4/366 Kampung Pulau Lang Kiri, 26800 Kuala Rompin, Pahang, MALAYSIA : cactusdistro@yahoo.com]

HYPERDRIVER / AMBASSADOR 21 – Teper Revolucija! (CD) : Digital hardcore noise assault from Europe. Hyperdriver is from UK is harsh hard hitting cramped breaks/noise you can sit down, stone out or do your chores to. It's got the aura which I get from Deathstom and Masonna; it's got a calm to it yet it could very well also make you stand and vibrate. A21 is terrorizing digital hardcore from Belarus. Stealing samples from the oldies, fusing subtle bits of breakbeats, techno and even drum n bass / trance and taking it to the extremes. Compounded by vocal duties ala Atari Teenage Riot. Something which would be crazy live. 12 tracks in all, with some s collaborated remix of each other. [Invasion Wreck Chords, PO Box 117, 220118 Minsk, BELARUS : www.ambassador21.com]

SECRET 7 / JAHILIA (7") : Needless to say, an important release in the history of Singapore hardcore in years to come. Both bands tight comrades of each other and entities in the fast core circles. S7 are fast out of control socially aware fun hardcore which kickstarted one of those adrenaline rushes when I played this. Jahilia are, like before, fastcore bordering on power violence though their material on this split seems to lack the spastic blur feel which initiated crazy moshpits whenever they play live. Regardless this is one split I'm keeping. Artwork by Nailed Down's Rohan Harrison. [Thrashsteadsyndicate c/o Muhammad Fairuz bin Taswadi, Blok 204, Marsiling Drive, #07-208, Singapore 730204 : thrashsteadsyndicate@hotmail.com]

(compilations)

V/A – ALMOST 10 YEARS OF LOSING AND FUCKIN' UP (CD) : The benchmark 10 year celebratory compilation of Friendly Cow Records from Germany. 28 tracks of various melodic hc punk band that have been released or associated with this label. I'll name drop a few bands; Oppressed Logic, Irish Car Bomb, Strung Up, Man vs Nature, Argies and many others. [Friendly Cow Records c/o Emke, Thumbstr. 72, D-51103 Cologne, GERMANY : www.friendlycow.de]

V/A – BASTARD RADIO #10 (CDr) : I don't like reviewing sampler CDs but I thought I'd make this an exception. Bastard Radio is a punk radio show which gives airtime to a lot of otherwise-unknown hc punk bands and then gives out free CDs. You get in touch with this guy, send your band's material and he will play it. DIY punk rock as fuck no gimmicks. This CDr has Standard Union, Charter 77, Hate Choir, Gary's Agenda, Agenda, Big Vinny & the Cattle Thieves, Where Eagles Dare, Emies Rubber Ducky and Snap Krackle Drop. There's even actual radio DJ type commentary in between. Support! [Bastard Radio, 2421 W. Jefferson St., Phx, AZ 85009, USA : bastardradiomail@yahoo.com]

V/A – BLAST FROM THE FAR EAST #1 (CD) : I feel strange reviewing something which has my band on it but please do not mistake this for self-promotion, rather I'm promoting the idea behind it. BFTE is initiated by Life On The Edge Records, (formerly Donotconsume Records) to promote DIY hc punk from South East Asia. It is a first in a series of many, archiving hc punk from the region. My band Lead (II) Nitrate open this with 9 songs of emo hardcore punk and we all suck. Aggressive Dog Attack is manic offkey offtime veteran pisscore from the Philippines (since the late 80s / early 90s), and oddly their contribution on this is barely listenable. Pisscore is a style that most people don't sit down to and the tape master used for this CD is so warped that it sounds like a nightmare. The rage is there, but the execution didn't have to suck so bad. Opusan Bangsat is upbeat furious punk hardcore advocating equality and animal rights ala Naked Aggression gone fast and a drum machine that doesn't sound like a drum machine. Nyi Blorong end this with 4 tracks of depressive heavy metallie hardcore, with tortured screams over poetic socially concerned lyrics. Order from [Sangara Records, PO Box 13288, 50806 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA : dnc_collective@yahoo.com]

V/A – BONDS OF OLD SCHOOL (CD) : front cover says A Malaysian Hardcore Punk Compilation Volume 1. What we have here are 9 bands of the 'old school youth crew' circuit. Every band looks like it has at least one straightedge member and all look clean cut, singing and shouting about what bothers them and what they hope to change. Features Last Minute, Eleven, Uphold, Channel X, Kids On The Move, Nostalgia, Cookie Monster, Second Combat and Grace Division with Eleven being my personal favourite. The song "Till The End" is so stuck in my head, I won't be surprised if someone out there covers it with his band someday. Applause for a great effort. A 6-label collaboration. I'll just list [Dratsab Records, #2A Jln Kampong Chachar, Kuala Lumpur, 72100 Bahu N. Sembilan, MALAYSIA]

V/A – HANGOVER HEARTATTACK – A Tribute To Poison Idea (CD) : Its self-explanatory. Put out by Farewell Records, Network of Friends and Ataque Sonoro. A compilation crediting and remembering one of the more crucial punk bands ever. Going through some of their best anthems are Bonehouse, Paintbox, Wolfbrigade, Barcode, Godnose, Path Of Destruction, Mata Ratos, Calibre 12, Baffdecks, Rat Bastados, Agrototoxic, Diavolo Rosso, Blasting Process, Kill Your Idols, Bolzen, Toe To Toe, 6000 Crazy, Ratos de Porco, The Hellcandidates and Tear Of A Doll. Comes with a full colour CD digipack gatefold whatever packaging with a comprehensive history of Poison Idea as a band, further accentuated by one of their interviews and of course some memoirs and photos. Even the bands that paid tribute are

Modern Asian Punk-Hardcore = Neocolonialism? A Critique of the Singapore mentality :

We never seemed to have progressed from the days of British colonialism. We still have the inferior Asian mindset.

Look around you. You see remnants of the colonial past, not in building design or infrastructure but in general society.

Our national language is ENGLISH. Singapore, an Asian country, yet having the authentic language of the Anglo-Saxon as its national language. It might not necessarily be British English, it could be American English, or anything that is and has been a characteristic of white culture.

In food, we have MacDonald's and Coffeebean.

In entertainment we have the latest Hollywood blockbusters.

In sport, we all know more about Manchester United and Arsenal but have never heard of Tyrwhitt Soccerites or Niac Mitra FC.

In performing arts and related culture, we have adaptations of Shakespeare and censor Phua Chu Kang's Singlish.

In education and speech, we communicate in English. Not Esperanto, not Malay, not Mandarin.

Nothing out of the ordinary of course. After all doesn't America and white culture dictate the world?

Until we involve punkrock.

Let's first dive into the aesthetics and the characteristics of punkrock. Punkrock as an idea was a rebellion, an alternative to a fucked up white/Western society. The first few punk and hardcore bands were white (save for the Bad Brains, but technically they were just a minority within a white majority), their message, their ideas and idealism, was a backlash against a white common culture and white deeds. (I'm probably inaccurate in some parts, but you get the bloody idea)

Punkrock as a sound is white. Drums and guitars are 'white instruments'. The Sex Pistols were white. Minor Threat were white. Dbeat, crustcore, youthcrew, emo is all WHITE.

Punkrock lingo is white. "Fucked up", "Fuck yeah!", "Straightedge", "Cops", "Drunk ass", "True till death!", "Don't wanna!", "We're gonna", "Oi, oi, oi!", All WHITE.

Punkrock as an appearance is white. From your canvas shoes to your leather boots, from your jeans to your T-shirts, from your jackets to your hooded sweatshirts, from your mohican to your half-green, half-blond locks. Flip up caps; X on the hands, chain wallets, even those nasty looking tattoos, is all WHITE.

I was talking to Maximum Rock N Roll's Paul Lesnescki (you see, a white guy from a Western magazine!) when he was on tour here with Japan's Power Of Idea and he expressed an awkwardness at punkrock being so prevalent in its base Western aspects, almost "like a plague".

Needless to say, I wondered what the fuck he meant.

Then slowly it dawned upon me. I remembered writing a piece on the Americanization of the world in Zerox #7, and that the uncanny accuracy of that article never quite hit home till that moment.

Nevermind the rest of society, but what are the reference points of punkrock and hardcore right now? It's always American (or at least predominantly Western) bands, labels and publications. Be they Heartattack, Maximum Rock N Roll, Punk Planet, Thursday, Against Me!, or Ataris. Fat Wreck, Equal Vision or 625.

Think about it. Who defines all these punk rock terms? Where were they all derived from? "Hardcore", "Emo", "Post-hardcore", "Skate thrash". Derived from the great, all-conquering White American culture.

Apart from your local scene (by local I mean your immediate punkrock circle), you suddenly seem to be more aware of the next release of Dillinger Escape Plan and whatever line up changes that they have, but you never really bothered to find out the name of the people in the bands you see week in, week out at the shows you attend. If you ever did.

Punkrock is, arguably, white in aspect.

Therein comes the next question. *Why the fuck am I still involved in punk then, if its so Westernized, if its so 'irrelevant' to Asian culture?*

I wondered the same thing. I pondered, looked at myself, scrutinized my surroundings.

Yes, punkrock as a culture is White. But what many fail to realize is that, apart from the "white" connotation, punk as we know it comes from a white perspective.

A white perspective, a white-environment response to a self-destructing world.

(Back to the initial question: why did punk exist in the first place?)

Punk was a reaction to a fucked up world, further illustrated and developed with time and various forms of expressionism.

Punkrock as an idea was a rebellion, an alternative to a fucked up white/Western society remember?

Early punk existed because obviously some people were fucking things up, and some people (in this case, white people) reacted to it. Its that simple.

Now put that analogy into a simpler perspective.

You are relaxing on your sofa, minding your own business. Suddenly in comes Big Bully. Big Bully tells you to move. You refuse. Big Bully pushes you away. What do you do? You push back because you refuse to be bullied further.

The Big Bully in the "real world" could be anyone you sing songs about; be they the state, the government, the racists, the corporations, war, disease, capitalism, communism, democracy, the homophobes, the religious fanatics. God, Satan, your own fucking selfish selves; anybody.

You respond. Through music. Through art. Through film. Through mime. Through appearance. Through thought. Through ideas. Through zines. Through spoken word. Through anarchism. Through acts of boycott.

Through punk and hardcore.

In short, you are responding to a threat. Theoretically punk is responding to threats.

So in essence, punk to me is a **response**.

Responses and reactions are not "white". They are not "Black" or "Asian" or Martian. They are HUMAN INSTINCTS.

True; idealistically South East Asian hardcore should be full of sarong-wearing punks hitting *tablas* and *sitar*s (Indian instruments) and screaming about world oppression through *gamelan* (Asian traditional music ensemble) performances and *tarian Jawa* (Javanese traditional dance). Could we have that someday? Maybe. Maybe never. But I guess most of us are happy being 'part-Western' playing Western styles of music to express our rage. What better soundtrack is there to our rage and despair other than D-beat crust or grindcore or fast straight up hardcore? With all due respect to traditional musicians, I'd rather review fast hardcore instead of some authentic Asian music (unless of course if it's got punkrock lyrics and sing alongs! ☺).

After all, the world is getting smaller. The West is part-Eastern too. People eat rice over there. People practise fengshui over there. That's good. Cross-cultural permeation isn't a bad thing. At least sometimes.

So to offer an answer to this confusing jargon; I'm still involved in this punkrock-hc scene because I **saw sense** in it. I learnt so much from it. I have to come this whole complex viewpoint because punkrock and hardcore made me a thinking person.

True, I went through the typical early stages of the hardcore kid. I worshipped bands, went by the book (or should I say lyric sheets) and chose to only discuss topics coherent to standard punkrock issues. But doesn't everybody?

And as time went by all my peers dropped out of hardcore/punk. Maybe they never saw the sense in it. Or maybe they did but failed to put things in perspective and to keep things relevant. Or maybe they just got disillusioned at being too aware while those around them were apathetic. Or maybe they just didn't get it.

The zines never lasted because they got tired of discussing the same old things.

The bands never lasted because they ran out of styles to emulate.

(Then again, some bands never progressed from their first gig 10 years ago. Same music style same rehashed lyrics. Sometimes I wonder why those bands never died.)

Everyone dropped out because punk was boring.

Well, if you fail to push the boundaries, if you fail to put things on par with your immediate environment, if progression to you is 'maturing' from spite-filled songs to that of wimpy 'life is good' emo songs, if you fail to practice what you preach, if you fail from thinking outside of your ideologies, if you fail to question your upbringing or status quo, if you fail from thinking...of course punkrock will be boring.

What I've realized is this; be as punk-as-fuck as you want, but remember that punk and rebellion as a whole can only work if its done **RELEVANTLY**.

You cant squat here unlike all those cool crusties in England? Fine. Live in a home.

Cant evade the corporations? Consume selectively then.

Hate your job but don't have social welfare? Find a job within the scope of your hobbies.

Think anarchy is impossible in your capitalism-littered area? Then live the way you honestly want, without reference to ANYTHING.

Think that leather jacket is too expensive? Steal it. Or better yet, don't bother. It's not even cold here.

UPSET / SOLEIL NOIR (7") : One of those records which look really good on the outside but substantially doesn't really live up to its exterior. **Upset** are brutal heavy hardcore with something to say (think *Acme*, *Overcast*) though they don't say much. **SN** seem to start off as melodic punk which somehow just rudely transits into 'singing indiepoppy rocky stuff' which honestly sounds painful. Not anguish, but painful. Sounds like *Silverchair* and *Hoobastank* at some parts, or maybe this just not my kind of thing. Good messages though, but the music.... [Frank Booth Inc c/o Linnemann Teichblick 1b, 38162 Weddel, GERMANY]

NIKMAT OLALIM / YOUR KINGDOM IS DOOMED (7") : A well-produced low-budget effort. Apart from the record I doubt there was any 'professional' pressing done, with a xeroxed inlay. **NO** is angry hardcore punk from Israel, making references to the Israeli way of life and depicting how terrible it is. Too many of us live in comfort and complain about petty issues but these kids live in a war-dominated region and they don't complain about stupid things except what is REALLY important to them; peace and freedom. **YKID** side....well I have no clue if they are from Israel as well but I just get a weird feeling they could also have been from Turkey. Comes with a useful *Animal Rights Q&A*. An *AMA* release. No address but try [AMA Tapes c/o Baris Silay, Levazim Sitesi Aydin B4 oo: 41, Levent Istanbul, 80600 TURKEY : www.amatapes.cjb.net]

SLACKJAW / SCHIFOSI (7") : **Slackjaw** is now defunct but their track reminds me of the heavier side of bc with bands like *Uranus* and *Acrid* springing to mind though. Its just one draggy track which is pretty good or something. **DF** are post-core which sounds like a hybrid of *Mainstrike* and *Turning Point*, though not quite as impactful. At most, a credible effort, at worst just a tad too predictable. I like the hand-drawn smiley face and frowning face which distinguishes the flip sides of the record though. [Slave Union, PO Box 324 Cohoes, NY 12047, USA]

DEADTHIRTEEN / DOWNFOUNDATION (7") : **Deadthirteen** do some grind death brutal metal stuff which seems a bit forced at times. Something which could accompany you while reading a murder novel or something. **DF** are post-core which sounds like a hybrid of *Mainstrike* and *Turning Point*, though not quite as impactful. At most, a credible effort, at worst just a tad too predictable. I like the hand-drawn smiley face and frowning face which distinguishes the flip sides of the record though. [Slave Union, PO Box 324 Cohoes, NY 12047, USA]

KILLING GROUND / GAGORDER (7") : Both bands apparently from Tampa Bay, Florida, USA. Both bands seem to be frustrated and very pissed off and saying "Tampa Sucks, don't come here!" Is Tampa really that bad? Anyway **KG** is straight up hatecore with punk leanings, churning out 4 songs blasting the system and hypocrisy. **GAGORDER** is havoc oi-core reminding me of some parts *Lash Out*, some parts *Warzone* yet pretty different. With song titles like "Your Opinion Sucks" and "Can't Handle My Liquor" you should get the drift. Do you? strangely no address but try [www.digitalangel.net]

KrOxLxPx / WINTERS IN OSAKA (tape) : Definitely one of the most unique interesting experimental tapes I've had to review, ever. **KrOxLxPx** is mind blowing acapella grind. Using the pencil-pen-utensil-pots-pans complex and various tones in his voice, this dude is the real deal! I love the bands where he emulates grindbands solely by hitting stuff on pots and pans, you can even sense the 'double pedals'. I don't know how else to describe it but it's fucking cute! **WIO** is atmospheric harsh noise that is basically a minimalist *Masonna*. Released by *AMA Tapes* [AMA Tapes c/o Baris Silay, Levazim Sitesi Aydin B4 no: 41, Levent Istanbul, 80600 TURKEY : www.amatapes.cjb.net]

FALLEN WORLD / BIRDBRAINS (tape) : Grindcore 10 years apart from Singapore. **FW** kicks this off with their brand of fast hc-leaning grindcore. Its basically their first demo, so if you already have that you would know how this sounds like. **BB** is actually a pioneer grindcore band that split up before I even began this zine and this tape is help promote their CD (which was out shortly after this tape was released). 5 tracks of old school grind (think *Old Lady Driver*, *Filthy Christians*), 2 from their 1991 demo and 3 advance tracks for the CD.

MORAL HAZARD / CHUPACABRA (7") : One of my favourite releases in my personal collection. **MH** offers just one long, but not draggy, interlude of dark depressed hardcore punk, very heavy and almost persuading you to open your eyes to what is happening around you. Their song discusses and highlights the ongoing relationship between corporations and schools and how the former manipulates the idea of education via marketing, which would eventually lead to a calculated brainwash. They went as far as to include a booklet to encapsulate their views. *Chupacabra* also exudes an aura of gloom though it seems concealed with their brand of pissed hc punk. I would say *Esso Asso* meets *Disrupt* and screamed female vocals. Definitely one of the more under-rated releases around. A 3-label collaboration. I'll just list [Catchphrase Records, Po Box 533, Waddell, AZ 85355, USA]

GAUGE MEANS NOTHING / TIALA / COHOL 3 way split (tape) : The official tour cassette when these 3 bands toured Singapore and Malaysia. I remember surviving their whirlwind sets at *Basement Bash*, their show in Singapore. **GMN** and **TIALA** are probably of the same league playing emotional post hardcore, with the former a 6 band ensemble with keyboards but were fucking mad while the latter is more 'coventional' and akin to all the other Japanese posthc/emo heroes (*Anode*, *Envy*, etc). **COHOL** are just straight up crazed metal with a vocalist who looked like he ran the Japanese doomsday cult, *Aum*-something. Fucking awesome. Not sure if this archive is still available.

JERITAN SEPI / TERSANJUNG 13 (tape) : A brawl of noise from Malaysia and Indonesia. JS from Malaysia sounds a little too much like Charles Bronson though but I guess it's an improvement from their 'hardcore tak jadi' sound of their demo. still lyrically they are quite cool, short and simple attacks on all kinds of idiots. Nice cover of The Bollocks. T13 is monstrous thrash-crust complimented by bits of grindcore. I like their first song Pro Inul Grindcore. Inul Daratista fucking rules and I don't care what anyone says. The rest of their half is a vicious attack on the years, cool covers of Relationshit and Unholy Grave... [Broken Noise, No 12, Jln Lembah 24, Tmn Desa Jaya, Johor Bahru, 81100 Johor, MALAYSIA]

AGGRESSIVE DOG ATTACK / NSA (tape) : 2 long standing Filipino hardcore punk bands. Punk war veterans ADA are still fucking much pisscore, and the material here is largely the same material used in the Blast From The Far East CD compilation. One cool bit of the ADA side is that Boi had his daughter to scream along in one of the songs. Sounded really cute and a little sweet to involve his daughter in some good old punkrock! NSA chooses to call themselves No Signing Agreement on this one and still maintaining their 1 2 3 Go angry punkrock sound of theirs that is fairly distinctive (to my ears at least) by now. Lyrics are calculated critiques of society and the world in general. Got this from [A.D.A. Po Box 064 Pacita Complex, San Pedro, Laguna, 4023 PHILIPPINES]

RAI KO RIS / RELATIONSHEEP (CDr) : A collaborative project of the bands and labels, this is a split between a Nepali and a Malaysian band. Raikoris as most purveyors of international hardcore would know, is raw pissed off bc punk from Nepal, though genre wise they draw from an array of influences. Coming from a country full of corruption and repression they are pissed and address the under-investigated crimes of the state with their raw emotion and it shows in their equally raw music. Some songs in English, some in Nepali. Relationsheet are fast melodic hardcorish punkrock with 'clean vocals'. Some of the songs are uptempo though some comes across as a little exaggerated. I enjoyed their lyrics more though for they rationally address the lethal and detrimental aspects of modern society be it through perception or fact. Sung in English but have Malay translations. One of the labels involved are [Propamedia c/o Kid, 6 Jln 8C/6 Taman Setapak Indah, 53300 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA : propamedia@hotmail.com]

DRUNKARD / CAPTAIN CLEANOFF (7") : Crust grind attack from Down Under. Drunkard is pissed to the point he crust grind attacking social ills and CC is one of those lyric-less bands that just makes you want to fuck shit up with their shit playing the background. Seems to me this was released by the bands themselves. [Captain Cleanoft c/o PO Box 193, Torrensville Plaza SA 5031, AUSTRALIA]

VULGAR THINKING / STANDARGANDA (CDr) : VT is political hardcore punk, with a tinge of originality. Nothing really predictable, it sways between generic hardcore to some melodic and heavy parts, some even jazzy. A good thing that the message is not corrupted amid the various musical see-saws, which many so called hardcore bands are guilty of. 5 songs of dual vocalled high-pitched and low-pitched he. SG plays he crusty grind stuff which is fairly good and engaging. No lyrics whatsoever on their side which disappoints an otherwise promising split. [Elegantly Wasted, c/o Adji Ji Taman Bunga Merak Kav.A1, Malang, 65141, Jatim, INDONESIA : sleeplessgroom@yahoo.com]

MAR / FALL TIME (7") : Looks overproduced and guess what? It is. Boring metal he with lyrics that dont mean anything to me. Not for me, sorry. Well at least the effort is there. [Firewalk With Me, no address]

FxPxOx / WASSERDICHT 3" (CD) : Woohool Eastern Europe hardcore attack! FxPxOx have been gaining a lot of worldwide recognition as of late with their crazed brand of straightedge and straight up hardcore thrash. I'm shivering just listening to their half, imagining what kind of crazy moshpit will evolve if they ever play live. 6 songs including and Up Front cover. Wasserdicht from Slovenia arent any worse, equally thrashed up as their Macedonian counterparts on this split. Also 6 songs of aggressive, aggravated angry hardcore. Songs about Nazis, government war and a lot of other assholes who bother them. I want to see both bands live now! [Homegrown, Blk 111, Yishun Ring Road, #02-367 Singapore 760111, SINGAPORE : badmongo74@hotmail.com]

STATE IS DEAD - Social Distrust / Aggressor / RSG 3 way split (tape) : This is a compilation of 3 punk bands from Indonesia. RSG is pissed crustcore attack, Aggressor is angry D-beatish hardcore punk thrash while Social Distrust is a violent raw punk assault! All 3 bands have considerable rage against the state (obviously) and are vehemently vocal about it. Lyrics cover a range of social issues both in English and Bahasa Indonesia. Play this fucking loud and fuck shit up now! [Mencret Records, Jl Tebet Barat dalam VIII, #28 Tebet-Jakarta Selatan 12810, INDONESIA : mencretrecs@yahoo.com]

CRIPPLE BASTARDS / CORRUPTED (7") : the CB side somehow looks 'modern' with a full colour insert and song titles that seem to be of one of those cheesy cyber metal bands. However they havent changed. Still nihilistic offensive he grind punk with a cynical outlook. Corrupted trudge through barren soil with a sludgy, heavy throaty track that just spells despair. More more! [H.G. Fact c/o Tadashi Satoh, 105, 2-7-15 Yayoi-cho, Nakano, Tokyo 164-0013, JAPAN]

Think its too troublesome to sew all those cool punk patches? For what? They never made you more punk anyway.

Cant imitate the sound of that hardcore band? Create your own style.

Cant afford the neat printed punk band shirts? Well what's wrong with whatever you're wearing now?

Have many things to say but suck at English? Sing in your native tongue then.

Cant find Doc Marten boots to complete your punk look? Fuck your punk look, wear slippers.

I love the band but I think moshing is violent? Who the fuck said you had to mosh?

Hate your country? Migrate.

Love your country? Stay but don't fucking complain and then do nothing.

Think life sucks because you cant keep up with the standard punkrock way of life? Kill yourself.

Punk as fuck, so fuck you.

On to the sub-topic:

[Critique of the Singapore mentality]

I think the title is very obvious but in case you're too stupid to comprehend what I'm trying to say, well I just think the Singapore underground punk-hardcore scene is fucked. And being another fucking idiot with opinions, I chose to criticize many areas of this scene (my 'local' scene).

Face it people, this scene is shit.

Why are local punks arguing with each other over punkrock facts and figures? Get this straight, I don't fucking care (anymore) about the history of Youth Of Today. I don't give a fuck about who is the 3rd bassist in the history of The Exploited. I don't understand why people go to lengths (to the extent of fighting) to complete the record collection of whatever he punk bands they idolise. I don't care who came first, Crass or Conflict. I don't care about covering stupid NOFX or RANCID songs with phoney accents.

True its always good to know the history of something that you're a part of, but where do you draw the line between idealistic and realistic?

I think the fact you're a rice eating, sambal-belacan loving Malay but have your band cover "England Belongs to Me" (especially if you never been there) is a big fucking joke.

Instead of caring so much about The Sex Pistols' history, why not divert your attention to the early days of bands like Opposites Party or The Dead Ends or Puppen?

Instead of quoting Noam Chomsky, how about quoting your wise neighbour for a change?

Instead of fake accents when covering Rancid, why not throw in a few "lahs", "kepala butohs" and "kaninas"?

Instead of making yourself look EXACTLY like the flip-cap donning, Vans wearing, Infest t-shirt clad hoodlums from What Happens Next?, why not stick with what you can afford? Band shirts are cool, I wear them too but I don't wish to imitate someone thread to thread!

Instead of trying to be Singapore's version of Discharge, whats wrong with being the next GI and The Idiots? (assuming you're so devoid of ideas that you have to imitate someone)

Why cover Conflict when you can cover Revolt? (assuming you're so devoid of ideas you have to cover someone)

Why go through extreme lengths to perfect your rudie look and your rugged emocore look when your drumming is astute and your "mat relek bawah block" look suits you fine.

I think the fact that you wear a leather jacket in the sweltering heat and humidity makes you a fashion victim.

I think the fact that you would pay tens of dollars for the latest hardcore punk CD from the coolest American band, but cant come up with \$3 for the latest local hardcore punk demo shows how fucked you are.

I think the fact that you would pay tens of dollars for the latest hardcore punk CD from the coolest American band, buy cigarettes and alcohol yet STILL would never pay \$5 for a local hardcore gig organized by your friends shows how fucked you are.

Ad infinitum...

True, the regional scene and our mindsets are still light years backwards. We still imitate without knowing it. We still need entities to look up to. We still need to take a leaf out of someone else's book.

But if we don't develop from this, if we still rehash, imitate and worship the very things that will never be part of our lives, then we should fuck ourselves for not being REAL.

One annoying aspect of the local scene in Singapore is that bands, zines, distros, individuals put themselves not above, but BELOW a pedestal.

Whatever the genre, whatever degree of domesticity you look at it, we put ourselves down far too often.

[Examples]

Too many bands never bother to release a demo as they do not think they are good enough. Fuck being 'good enough'. Anything sincere is good! Anything pretentious, no matter how well-copied, is still pretentious. We define ourselves as 'local'. Anything 'foreign' is better. Even if we have no idea what the 'foreign' group is. And then we come up with stupid remarks like "good for a local band". Fuck that shit! Fuck your mindless standards and boundaries! If something is good, its good. If something is bad, its bad! Locality has NOTHING to do with it!

Too many people are afraid to offend. FUCK YOU! Punk would never have had such potency in changing lives if it was laid-back, sugary and polite. If it doesn't piss you off, if it doesn't inspire or motivate you, it isn't punk! Also, how many of us have said things like "oh I'm just a new guy in the scene, my zine is shit". Well, for your information don't you think its insulting to me (a reader, maybe even a consumer) that you're selling me shit? Yes I agree that arrogant bastards can fuck off but if you don't give yourself a chance at doing things, who will? Too many of us try to emulate and imitate. Doesn't originality, heart and soul mean a thing to you fucks? There's also the notion that the more contacts you have, the 'bigger fuck' you are. Fuck that. Don't whine and look at me when I say I have contacts all over the world. Follow my lead. Read through your flyers and zines, take a pen (or type an email, whichever) and GET IN TOUCH with the addressee! There are no rockstars no pedestals no writing standards in hardcore punk! I wasn't born with contacts you fucking idiots, I go through the trouble to make them!

Then strangely, there's also a "I think I'm very good" attitude about the local scenesters which gets me depressed.

[Examples]

You want your band to play at a show but complain endlessly when you get the first or last slots.

You want your project to succeed but never bother to promote it or to put effort into it.

You want the cleanest sound, the coolest looking production for your band's release, you try extra hard to sound like your favourite band then when the release is out, you sell it for ridiculous prices and wonder why no one buys your material.

You get jealous about upcoming bands but never bother to put effort into releasing your first demo.

You want everything but never say thank you.

You say hardcore and punk is about the message but you never mean anything you say.

You say fuck fashion but splash \$150 for that Vans shoe, and spend 1 hour spiking up your mohican.

You ask people to review your work honestly, but deep down you'll only accept good reviews.

You tell people to check out your event, but never show up at the other events.

You keep calling other people fucked up, but never bother to see things from their point of view.

You talk so much about anarchy and equality but exclude people of lower intellect from your get-togethers.

You talk so much about anarchy and equality but never put those ideas into perspective.

You talk so much about living an alternative lifestyle when you're at hardcore shows but at the end of it you're still that *cheena beng*, that *Mat Kental* or the typical *Tamilah*.

You say fuck racism but still think your race is the best. Fuck you!

You are proud of your heritage. So am I. But I don't base my life around my racial stereotype and racial 'expectations' the way you do.

You define people by "hardcore", "punk", "skinhead", "nerd", "metalhead" when it should just be "good person", "bad person".

Your band got released by a foreign label. You got interviewed in a foreign zine. Your zine was listed in zines overseas. That means you're good right? WRONG! Like I said fuck boundaries! The quality of your work is not defined by terms of locality. Its measured by effort and sincerity! The word "local" immediately sets boundaries and defines unfair standards!

xxx

Which brings to mind why I quit organizing shows.

I actually have never done a show totally by myself but ive been through just enough for the moment.

The first few shows I did were the DE-GENDER-ALIZE series. For the uninitiated, we had two installments both of which were to showcase bands with female members.

bands of today. Would have reviewed this better if there was a lyric sheet. Am I missing one or is the band just not bothered? A Sakari Empire release [thisday@sakari.co.uk]

WANT TO ESCAPE "Who will be grounded next?" demo (CDr) : Fast youthful energetic NYHC type stuff, with the whole post-core attitude and the sing-alongs. On the streets, they have been described at the next Recover, which is not necessarily a bad thing. Either they be predictable yet positive hardcore kids or they be *mat tapereds*. Haha. Jokes aside, I would love to see these kids direct their energy into having their own style, though this isn't bad at all. I respect their DIY approach to things and hope they never abandon this energy when they 'grow up'. [Ahmad Anwar, Blk 172, Woodlands St 13, #09-303, Singapore 730172, SINGAPORE : want2escape@asia.com]

WARCOLLAPSE "Crap, Scrap and Unforgivable Slaughter" (7"EP) : one of the most apocalyptic drunk punk bands ever come up with this covers-only release with tributes to Antisect, Amebix and Discharge. I don't care if they're drunk punks anti-straightedge or whatsoever. I love them and want their T-shirt! *hint hint* [First Blood Family, go seek their address elsewhere in this zine you lazy bastards]

WARSPITE "Gallery of the Macabre - Studies of Death and Darkness" (CD) : 12 songs of heavy sick death metal from Germany, which I found myself headbanging to. No lyrics. [Crimes Against Humanity, PO Box 1421, Eau Claire, WI 54702, USA : www.cahrecords.com]

WOJCZECH "Chronological Discography" (CD) : This was supposed to be out during the Wojczech South East Asian tour last year but the pressing plant fucked up and they got it ready only when the band got back to Germany. 27 studio tracks and 3 live tracks of this German crust-grind outfit. [Dratsab Records, #2A Jln Kampong Chachar, Kuala Jempul, 72100 Bahau N. Sembilan, MALAYSIA]

W.T.N. "Rotting In Pestilence" (CD) : Fucking sick rotten gore grind from one of Singapore's best underground exports. Their supposed last release with some remakes of their earlier vinyl material. Starts off with a gloomy almost petulant introduction to boil your blood before it transcends into a blast of sick splatter gore grind. Traces of early Carcass though retaining their unique dark crust-meets- sickgrind sound which make them what they are. Guest appearance by Mark of Impetigo and classic morbid artwork of Nor Prego. Heard that this has already been repressed by the time this has been out. If Viscera, Squash Bowels, Decomposing Serenity, Cock & Ball Torture and Evil Semen zine material is your kind of thing, then you should add this to your collection. [Razorback Records, PO Box 321, Farmingville, NY 11738, USA]

(split releases)

INWARD / MIND (tape) : a split tape EP of two German bands. Short abrupt blasts of murky hardcore-punk from Inward; 2 studio tracks and 3 live ones from their final gig in 1998 including a Hammerhead cover. The Mind side is a similar sounding whirlwind of socially aware bc grind (both bands remind me of Wojczech and Entrails Massacre) with some cheesy samples in between. Crazy for a 2 piece! Packaged in a 7" type arrangement. [Tower Violence c/o Danilo Posselt, Karlstrasse 51, 18055 Rostock GERMANY : piz-vagabu@gmx.de]

ALL THESE WHILE / HIGHSCORE (CD) : An onslaught of pissed hardcore here. Malaysia's ATW is to the point vulgar pisscore. Anti war anti racist anti homophobic anti bullshit, 10 short fast blasts of thrash which is direct in its message and doesn't beat around the bush. Highscore from Germany is angry furious hardcore with lyrics that are bound to ruffle a few feathers especially of those who don't see beyond the fashion aspect of hardcore, of those who are narrow minded, of those who are power hungry, of those who are entrapped in morals so much that it blinds them. This may not create enough hype to 'sell' 10000 units in 12 months but this is substantially as raw as hardcore can get. Released by Life On The Edge and Inferior 666, distributed by [Sangara Records, PO Box 13288, 50806 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA : dnc_collective@yahoo.com]

ROTTEN COLD / HUMAN MASTICATION (CD) : RC is violent socially aware technical grind from Austria, with fairly decipherable lyrics about the ills of the world. 7 original tracks and 1 Entombed cover which might give you a rough idea of where this band is coming from. HM is from the Philippines and play brutal death. Lyrics about greed and dependency on world media. This release doesn't offer much to me but it does exhibit enough importance for others to take notice. [reverbgrind.cjb.net]

ZANN / ANGER IS BEAUTIFUL (tape) : Zann is chaotic emoviolence from Germany, imagine Acme upping themselves 2000 rungs on the intense/fast ladder. No lyrics just explanatory notes questioning the status quo of punk. AIB plays a similar style of tortured emocore. Their side comes with a lyric sheet which almost reads like a CrimethINC gazette but they did make some valid points and pointers on the materialistically corrupt society that we have. Both bands from Germany, and this is something that is very colourful on the musical bit but not mundane intellectually. [Pure Minds Records, Lot 267, Kg Che Zainal, Tambahan 1, 31200 Chemor, Perak, MALAYSIA]

demo tracks and their live set in the Stockholm leg of their 11 gig existence. However, how AON manages to get such a quality raw "ultimate dis-sounding" archive of the band is beyond me. Superb release. [AON Distro c/o Ivailo Tonchev, Stara Zagora 6010, KV "Kazanski" 16-G-115, BULGARIA]

STEVE TOWSON and The Conscripts (CDEP): The latest offering of Steve Towson. Still mainly a solo performer, this release has a supporting band lending him additional sounds. A little more produced than his past albums (then again, how much production work can you do for a solo folk muso?), this electric folk guitarist has added various dimensions to his material. Still retains the distinct punk sound but extended soundscapes (in particular the second song) made this a little more engaging. Steve hasn't wimped out lyrically, still addressing social problems in the guise of poetry, prose and immaculately thought words. To be honest the only Steve Towson release I could see myself playing over and over again. 4 songs. [CrimInAll Records, PO Box 63, The Gap, QLD 4061, AUSTRALIA : www.stevetowson.com]

SUBWAYS "Realities of Life's" (tape): Political Oi/street punk from Indonesia. About 14 anti-state songs, some in English some in Indonesian. Its pretty upbeat and moshpit-inciting stuff. very Discharge meets The Oppressed. Rebellious, freedom-demanding punkrock! [Movement Records, PO Box 6371, JKSGU, 12063 Jakarta, INDONESIA]

THE BEAUTY OF DOUBT "Everything Ends" (CDr): One of my favourite bands from the South East Asian region right now. Not too sure about whether this is a new band or a project featuring some of the 'older' guys in the Pinoy punk scene. Can someone fill me in on this? Fast positive hardcore. No thrash no emo no screamo no metal just straight up hardcore with 'clean' vocals. It all blends well musically. I would say a more hardcore Bad Religion (Generator era). Lyrically its great with sharp critiques of ideologies, reason and thought. 8 songs including a Biofeedback cover. [Counterflow Records, no address : thebeautyofdoubt@yahoo.com : Tape version available through NAT Records c/o Mazmi, 2115-21, Jln Sg Gombak, 53000 KL, MALAYSIA : natdistro@yahoo.com]

THE DARLINGS "Waste Your Time" (CDEP): A half expatriate, half local band from Bangkok, Thailand this band plays AMAZING raw melodic 'loser' Ramones inspired punk rock and roll. I'm not usually keen on this style but after a while I got hooked. Maybe I wouldn't dig it so much if it was slickly produced, the supposed partial home recording did it for me I guess. 7 loser rock anthems about broken hearts and such. I love this. [Bangkok Alien Music Alliance, 33 Soi 5 Suanlanthong 2, Pattanakon Rd, Bangkok, THAILAND 10250 : thedarlingsbkk@yahoo.com]

THE DESTROYED "Outta Control" (CD): The Destroyed existed for about 3 years (1977-1979), and were part of the punk explosion back then, though this band seems more rebellious rock (which was early punk anyway). I wasn't even fucking born yet at that time and these old spring chickens were rocking out already. They are a 2 piece, drums, guitar and anger. No bass no shit no solos no fucking image no marketing no technology no internet no mp3s no rubbish. Just straight up punk rock the way they knew it. They have a guest appearance by Henry Kaiser (now be's familiar but who was he?), basically some new studio tracks and some old ones recorded on tapes in the 70s. Would have helped if they provided a more comprehensive booklet of what they used to be. Self released [thedestroyed.com]

THE KILL (CDr): Reissue of this killer manic blast grind outfit from Australia. 11 songs of hate attacking everything from baggy pants to trends to saying nothing. Fucking crazy 3 piece this, the thrash elements of Hellnation meets the heaviness of Discordance Axis condensed into a wall of noise. [Asusila Records, Kemanggisan Iir VI No 78, Palmerah, Jakarta Barat 11480, INDONESIA : asusilarecords@yahoo.com]

THE WAGE OF SIN "The Product Of Deceit and Loneliness" (tape): One of the best all-girl brutal hardcore bands I have ever put my ears to. Unlike a lot of bands of this sound, this is pretty straight up. It's heavy hardcore with the chugga chugga, and screamed angry vocals with not too much musical and lyrical exaggeration; just the right balance of art and heart. Even the 'emo' parts are timed perfectly and fit the mood and nature of the songs. 8 tracks, including one hilarious sample (authentic or not, I don't know) between a corporate music executive and presumably the band. Overall a release I felt was thoroughly sincere. [Trustkill Records c/o Elephant Eye Records (official tape release) www.elephanteyerecords.com]

THE YOUNG ONES "Era of hopeful monsters" (7"EP): This is sincere straight up suburban hardcore punk rock. This 3 piece hail from the USA and just express their rage at social expectations and other fallacies within sight. Recorded live in a room (with a mixdown of course) and the inlay is unpretentious cut and paste. Also the label contributes a few words amongst the lyric sheet. The feel I get when I put this on and when I go through the lyrics is Born Against, and while The Young Ones don't exactly measure up to that it shows just where these guys stand. [Punks Before Profits Records, PO Box 57 Olean NY, USA : www.angelfire.com/punk2/punksbeforeprofits]

THIS DAY MUST DIE demo (CDr): Hmm. 4 songs of 'emo' which brings to mind various elements of 90's emocore. There are hints of Still Life, 4 Walls Falling and the screamy parts which are integral of many screamo/emo

We got the whole thing going for both installments. I fucked a few things up myself, in DE-GENDER-ALIZE Part 1 I fucked up with the funds, misused them, whatever. I take total responsibility for that. its my fault. Since then I've shunned from 'treasurer' roles because I know for a fact I'm bad with money.

The shows never really went the way I wished they should or could have but I feel it is not proper to discuss this in the zine, since I co-organized this with many others.

Yes true it takes a lot of effort to do a show. There is planning, budgeting, sourcing of venues, bands and whatever. I don't mind the hard work, and that is what I've always done. (recently ive co-ordinated tours which is far much more work than just doing a show and I've never complained, just in case you questioned my effort). But the experiences I have witnessed and bitter moments I've garnered from just doing shows is enough to put me off, at least for now.

In the DE-GENDER-ALIZE series, I did a lot of work because everyone else had commitments. Which, as I said earlier, is fine. But what pissed me off were the rumours that went around of me trying to 'take over' the gig. Now when you're helping some people and that is the thanks you get, you would of course feel like shit.

After DE-GENDER-ALIZE I co-organized a few shows with other kids but I stopped because I was just devastated at the response. Not so much with the number of people. I'd rather make a loss at a show with just 20 kids who are really supportive of the whole idea than make hundreds of dollars from 250 idiots. Arrogant, selfish, inconsiderate...I've seen enough of these bastards.

On show days I've had sound support show up late, but interestingly I never fault them. I always feel that the biggest assholes at a show were the people themselves.

First some people just wont fucking pay up. They give me all that "hey bro, you're my friend let me in for free". Don't get me wrong I would let everyone in for free if I could! But who is going to pay for the sound, the venue? Already bands are not being paid in Singapore because everything is so expensive! The only bands that get paid are foreign bands on tour, and even so its not much. If you're really my fucking friend, help me cover rent by paying the door entry! If you really cant afford it, sit around and help clean up! Or guard the amps from being kicked over by some crazy punk! Be there and SHOW ME your friendship!

I would make exceptions for those who have sincere difficulties or are showing that they are helping out in one way or another. If someone who runs a distro asks me if he can get a discount I would relent. If someone who I know has put her heart, soul and purse into her zine asks for free entry I might consider.

But if every single lazy drunk asshole asks for free entry its not going to be fair to ANYONE. Seriously I'd rather have people gatecrash without me knowing (something ive done before) than someone who calls me a friend but doesn't justify that claim.

That isnt the worst yet. Ive seen people who never fucking paid any entry fee due to whatever reason, then buy lots of cigarettes and beer. If you're hungry that's fine but cigarettes and beer which cost more than the door fee? So you cant help a "friend" who is already broke beyond description but you can satisfy your own selfish desires? To all these people, I don't care if you're my friend or not... here is my big FUCK YOU!

Then there are the bands! Bands who come late. Who purposely avoid coming early to not be the 'first band'. Bands with totally stuck up attitudes. Bands who never bother to say thank you. Bands who demand this and that but never even bother to think what I go through. Ive had people who request for certain bands to be on the bill of a show I'm organizing with like 5 other people but at the end of the day never get any respect or thanks from them. FUCK YOU ALL SUCK COCK AND EAT SHIT.

Then there are the people you run the show with! There would be conflict of interests, then there would just be too many opinions. If we had 5 venues, 450 bands and \$3 million dollars to spare I wouldn't mind doing all sorts of shows, but when you do a show (especially a DIY hc punk show) you need some form of discipline and direction! Money will undoubtedly be tight, you have the get bands who arent in it to waste everyone's time, venue and sound rental have to be covered and you must be prepared for the worst! Too many opinions can just lead to many redundant ideas and periods.

I'll probably just do a show a year or a show every 3 years. I don't fucking know. Ive had enough of you selfish self-important assholes. You don't help me, or anyone. Why the fuck should I help you then?

xxx

On to the next annoying topic -- "old school" scene fucks. Some old birds who have been in the scene for far too long and just undermine everyone's effort.

Lets start with their prejudice of the young generation. They don't involve these young kids at shows, don't share knowledge, music and zines. They look down on the young bunch who have been around for only 6 months.

For example the whole mp3 - CD - tape - vinyl divide. Ok, for a start fuck mp3s. I always preferred tapes. But a lot of my friends in the punk circle now are from the digital age. To them music only exists on disc and mp3s, which is of course a silly notion. So what does one do? Discriminate them? Or tell them why CDs are a result of capitalist idiots and that vinyl and tape still rule? I love tapes and always will, and I try to encourage friends to check out and buy tapes. But if at the end of the day they still prefer CDs and mp3s what can you do? Generations and people change (no thanks to Mr Capitalism!), a lot of the old farts like vinyl and hate tape. I like tapes and don't mind vinyl (they're OK, just fucking inconvenient for me). Big fucking deal.

Then there are the gateway bands. Some of the old farts got into hardcore and punk with the rise of Black Sabbath. I got into hardcore and punk through 80s and 90s rock (Metallica, Guns n Roses, Iron Maiden) while a fair bit of the new kids got into punk hc through Green Day, NoFX, and Linkin Park.

Don't get me wrong I HATE all this pop punk emo neu metal shit. Its manufactured, stupid and downright hilarious. But a lot of my buddies got into punkrock and DIY hc through those bands. Are they any less a punkrockers than me and you? NO!

its not about how you got into the scene, its not even why you got into the scene.

Its about how you REMAIN in the scene and what you do while you're in it. These kids may someday do a zine, be in 3 crust bands, organize some shows and go on tour. Just like me and you, but to continuously put them down, doubt their sincerity and just make fun of them due to how they got into this defiance is totally shallow. If this is old school, FUCK OLD SCHOOL THEN! I'll stay new school forever. Then at least I'm not one of you prejudiced fucks.

The really funny thing about some of these 'old school' guys is that they arent even fucking old school. 5 years is not old school you fucking clowns. Plus I never saw you at the shows when I was 15. Who are you bastards kidding?

Look in the mirror. Look at your fucking selves. Assess your selfishness. Question everything. I wish for punk to be a threat again. I want punk to be confrontational and bold again. I want punk to question the status quo again. I want punk to pull away from this silly, ignorant 'mature' emo-rock-fashion thing and be provoking, criticizing and dangerous again. I want punk to mean something to people. I want punk to be beyond the surface. I want punk to put 'sense' into common sense again. I want punkrockers to not be held back by religion, dogma, fear or taboos. I want punk to fade off from the hypocrisy it is tolerating. I want punk to have guts again, to spit in the face of morality.

Otherwise, punk as a counterculture should just cease to exist for the good of mankind.

Punk as fuck. Fucked as you.

- Shaiful -

singapore's fastcore vs fast hardcore on one slab of 7" wax. whoasales, trades welcome, please write for rates.

356 PPD IN SINGAPORE
US\$6 PPD WORLD

Thrashsteady Syndicate

c/o muhammad faizul
bik 204, maralling drive, #07-208, singapore 730204
http://thrashsteadysyndicate.cjb.net
thrashsteadysyndicate@hotmail.com

"The love for all living creatures is the most noble attribute of humans."

-Charles Darwin

The American Anti-Vivisection Society
Suite 204 Noble Plaza • 801 Old York Road
Jenkintown, PA 19046-1685

LIBERTARIAN
COLLECTIVE

T-SHIRT
PIN/BUTTON
EMBLEM/PATCHES
VCD/CD/KASET
RECORDING
MERCHANDISING
ZINES BUKU

BAND/PERFORMANCE
RECORD
KOMIK
PRINTING/SABLON

DJX DISTRO

JL. BARENG RAYA 2 A / 402 MALANG
65118 - JAWA TIMUR, INDONESIA
TELP. (0341) 327101
HP. 08170500982

URBANPIRATES
DISTRIBUTED BY

government, anti-religion, you know the drill. Released by Terrotten and Usina De Sangue. [Terrotten, A/C Renan Favero, Caixa Postal 8080 Porto Alegre, RS / 90201-970 / BRAZIL : www.terrotten.com]

RUINATION "s/t" (CD) : this is blazing furious hardcore rage from the States. 21 studio tracks all from various releases including a cover from The Freeze, plus 19 tracks from their live session in Philadelphia. Lyrics are spite-filled about law and order, God, routine, nationalism and the screwed aspects of humanity. A fair balance of blasts (not blast beats just spurts of a hardcore avalanche) and breakdowns with screamed vocals. Their live set justifiably outlines the energy that this band has. Is this a discography? If it isn't, it might as well be since this is a worthy documentation of Ruination. [Heroine, PO Box 35, Cesena 47023, ITALY : www.heroinerecords.com]

S.A.M. "Bem Venidos A La" (tape) : Lo-fi (approaching bad) quality sound release of a rather decent sounding aggressive punk band from Brazil. Only 1 song in English, the rest in (I think) Portuguese. Cant make out what they're saying but judging from the song titles they are pissed with the military, capitalism and nuclear warfare. Support third world punk! [S.A.M. c/o Marco Aurelio, CX Postal 2041, CEP 79008-970 Campo Grande - MS BRAZIL : san72@iname.com]

SATYR demo (CDr) : 5 songs of heavy death metal inspired hardcore from Thailand. 3 songs in Thai 2 in English. Would like to see more from this band. No address.

SAWN OFF "s/t" (tape) : this is off-the-hook manic thrashy crustcore/hc from the UK. Relentlessly political it is a swirling frenzy of pissed growls and screams over thick guitars and the craziest blast/16 beats out there. 26 songs of hate, spite and warning of a bleak future, of life, of depressive routine and despair due to corporate power and the influence of their ilk. Released in the UK on Flat Earth and Europe through [Insane Society Records, PO Box 6 501 01 Hradec Kralove CZECH REPUBLIC]

SCHIFOSSI "Ill winds from utopia" (12"LP) : Fuck. Fouuccckkk. Definitely one of the best gifts I ever had (thanks Edryan). 10 songs of the gloomiest depressive hardcore, leagued in the Hissus / Tragedy / Wind Of Pain school. Doomy emo-crust hardcore painting a very bleak picture of society, of the powers that be, of social standards and everything else. Guttured harsh growls (girl vocals so brutal you'd never believe it). A soundtrack for the final stages of humanity. We are all going to die sooner than we should and this record warns you of it. Released by 3 labels; Broken Rain, Endless Blockades and Appliances & Cars. [Endless Blockades, PO Box 3023, South Brisbane BC, Queensland 4101, AUSTRALIA : www.endlessblockades.live.com.au]

SCHIFOSSI "s/t" (7"EP) : Like all Schifossi releases reviewed here, the artwork has a distinct feel. Imagery of natural and environmental rape and printed with what I think are soy inks on special recycled paper. now that's food for thought. Anyway, like their LP this offers 4 tracks of brazen depressed hc crust. So when's the SE Asian tour? *hins* a Voice Production and Global Warning release [Global Warning, PO Box 242 Northcote 3070 Vic, AUSTRALIA]

SCUTTLE demo (tape) : Oh my fucking cock. Distorted Japanese hardcore, if Exclaim committed incest this would be their bastard child!!! Fucking crazed Japcore 234! [elttucs@hotmail.com]

SELFMADEGOD "Serdang Filthy Grindcore" Singapore Tour Promo 2004 (CDr) : This was the band's promo CDr when they played in lioncitydiy.com's debut show Reasons To React. This is extremely fast grind-violence and can be compared to a lot of Brazilian/Spanish grindcore bands that doesn't say anything but on the other hand, fucking fun to mosh to. Violent Headache plus Hyper Hindu Squatters meets Mastie Scum? SMG recently died but to those who are curious about their sound, check them out at [Hisham, No 94 Jalan BS 5/20 Tmn Bkt Serdang, 43300 Sri Kembangan, Selangor DE, MALAYSIA : uglismokecore@yahoo.com]

SILBATO "s/t" (tape) : Tortured and screamy post hardcore from Italy. Fluctuating between the urgent and the intricate this has trickles of Japanese screamo as well as mid 90s Europeo mid-paced hardcore. 17 songs with rather strange titles but all utilizing their worth with lyrics that paint a seemingly detached, hopeless view of the then and now. [Bullwhip Records c/o Borhan, No 9 Jalan 3/4 G, 43650 Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor D.E., MALAYSIA : bogeyhunt@hotmail.com]

SINK demo 2004 (CDr) : The latest demo from local bardcorians Sink which is honestly better than their debut full length. This should be the professionally done release, and the full length the demo. oh well. 3 songs of raging hardcore sla modern Sick Of It All, though they do blend it with ska parts and thrash moments. I loved the hilarious live recorded conversatioo with the craziest studio engineer in Singapore ever. [http://all at/sink : sinkers22@yahoo.com]

SOUND OF DISASTER "The Swedish Disaster 84-85" (tape) : Hugs, kisses and beers to the label that released this, for sharing a bit of ANCIENT Swedish hardcore history with me. SOD, a classic example of early dis-/beat hardcore was formed shortly before I was born and died before I could even walk properly. This tape contains some of their

hardcore; traces of Catharsis occasionally but overall they are just sincere furious hardcore that doesn't try to imitate anyone. Includes a booklet with lyrics and explanations and critiques. No cheesy imagery no slogans, just clear cut stuff. I think the band released this themselves. No trace of a label. Try [Nico, Kapelstraat 56, 2275 Lille, BELGIUM]

PARTIYA - "Punk is my life" (CD) : This is fucking catchy (well, not really) snotty, - and judging from the energy I get when I played this - angry punk rock from Belarus. Definitely influenced by early street and pogo punk, it has the whole '77 feel to this, as well as a RAW sound! Unfortunately as much as I would like give a detailed review, everything here is in Russian. I think I should get married to a Russian chick so move there and find out more about hands like this @. Self-released. [Myshkovets Sergei Stepanovich, PO Box 389, Minsk, 220090, BELARUS]

PEOPLE AGAIN demo (CDr) : Furious hardcore punk from this 3 piece. Fusing elements of street hardcore, punk and thrash this is a raw assault of pissed voices. 3 songs on the state, media and pollution. Sound is slightly muffled but that's OK because I can feel the energy and rage, and that's important! [PO Box 11577, Milwaukee, WI 53211, USA]

PISSCHRIST demo (tape) : A project of individuals of the Melbourne crust bc scene. Members (past and present) of Schifosi, Far Left Limit, Drunkard and Mass Separation this D-beat monster tears your ears with dirty murky angry crust. Songs in English and Bahasa Malaysia, fucking cool. Pisschrist tours South East Asia the first fortnight of January 2005 so check with your local scene to see where and when they play! [PO Box 242, 3070 Northcote, Victoria, AUSTRALIA : dbeat_holocaust@yahoo.com]

PLAGUE RAGES "Aversao" (tape) : Discordant anarcho piss/blastcore from Brazil. Extremely spiteful about the lack of social justice in their immediate surroundings, this is anarchy over a wall of noise. Lyrics in their native tongue (not sure if its in Portuguese, doesn't seem like it), with very helpful English translations. 19 tracks of fucking aural murder. [Impregnate Noise Laboratories c/o Bohdan Mach, PO Box 2, 76361 Napajedla, CZECH REPUBLIC]

PRETTY BABY DOLLS "Nekolim Kontrol" EP (tape) : Don't let the name fool you for this is extreme anti-government anti-oppression blastcore. Combining the rage of the everyday repressed Indonesian punkrockers and early Napalm Death / Sore Throat and this is what you get. Not a blur fuzzy assault on your ears, just a slow build up then a huge avalanche of insane blast beats and screamed vocals over huzzsaw guitars. Lyrics in Bahasa as well as English. [Movement Records, PO Box 6371, JKSGU, 12063 Jakarta, INDONESIA]

PROTOKOL "Mommy Says Don't Talk to Bastards" (tape) : This was reviewed in ZEROX 8 by a guest but nonetheless I will review it again. This doesn't come with lyrics but manifestos on what the band feels about their immediate environment with the Malaysian capitalists and what not. This is a brutal punk/crust/grind assault on the musical front though. Slow build ups with hooks and danceable hits then explodes into a blast/pisscore frenzy. 18 tracks. [Pure Minds Records, Lot 267, Kg Che Zainal, Tamahan 1, 31200 Chemor, Perak, MALAYSIA]

R.A.M.B.O. "Escape From Imperialism" Asian Tour 2004 (tape) : No it's not Stallone. Revolution Anarchy Mosh Bike Overthrow were here on tour early 2004 and this was the limited edition tape for those who wanted some kind of souvenir after surviving their dangerous moshpits. RAMBO is to the point hardcore reknowned for crazy 'army themed' sets with the most over-the-top moshpits ever (yes along with moshed up styrofoam machine guns and cardboard tanks). This has taken from the "Wall Of Death The System", a live show in Germany and some of their split EPs. Probably not available anymore but try Propamedia [c/o Kid, 6 Jin 8C/6 Taman Setapak Indah, 53300 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA : propamedia@hotmail.com]

RECOVER "s/t" (CD) : Their 2nd full length after the monumental "Won't Fade Away" release. This is an example of how DIY can work. A decent recording, a great production (not too raw not too polished), gatefold digipackaging and fine artwork and still going for \$7! Expensive hardcore can go fuck off, this is the real deal. Still has the NYHC, mid 90s mid paced US hardcore feel and I can definitely relate to it because I grew up listening to stuff like this. Not as many singalongs as "Won't Fade Away" and not as straight up (yes yes I know it isn't fair to compare but you must remember that I'm a sentimental asshole) but at the end of the day it is still important positive political energetic hardcore and has the potential to be one of those "gateway" hands to remove bored kids from the lame trendy 'new-metal/hardcore' crap and get involved in some real positive hardcore. [Thrashsteadsyndicate c/o Muhammad Fairuz bin Taswadi, Blk 204 Marsiling Drive, #07-208, Singapore 730204 SINGAPORE : thrashsteadsyndicate@hotmail.com]

RESERVE 34 "s/t" (7"EP) : 7 songs of enraged thoughtful and intense hardcore from this Canadian outfit. I would compare them to a Mouthpiece and Unbroken hybrid. They're straight up in a sense, yet don't have 20 word lyrics. I felt something but I can't quite put my finger on it. Anyway, a great record. [Moo Cow Records, 38 Larch Circle, Belmont MA 02478, USA]

RIISTETERROR (7"EP) : Well Sick Terror of Brazil meets Riistetyt from Finland. What the fuck can come out of it apart from the most manic Finnish styled Brazilian hardcore punk? Pissed throaty blasting brutal bc punk, anti

STONEHENGE Records interview

Stonehenge is a do it yourself, non-profit label and mailorder, striving for the happy and creative liberation from the capitalist, sexist, homophobic, racist, imperialist and hierarchized's inheritance that is restraining our lives and our relationships.

- 1) Hello. What time is it over there? What have you been up to the whole day? Hello, how are you doing? Well, right now it is 12:18 am precisely. I woke up like everyday around 10 am, and like everyday, doing emails until like 1 pm. Then I will do some mailorder until 4 pm, then will go to the post office, etc., ehehehe! That's a pretty basic Stonehenge day as you can see...
- 2) So how long have you been running Stonehenge? Has it been a solo effort? Do you plan to end this someday? When and why? Well, Stonehenge started out in 1991. So, that is 13 fucking years ago... I started it as a mailorder project with 2 friends, and since they were not really efficient and "serious", I decided to carry it on by myself. I have no plans about the future. This winter, I almost decided to stop my punk activities, because at age 34, I felt like punk was way too far from the alternative counter-culture I needed to feel a part of, and was aiming towards too many weird paths (business, to name it). But, I decided I was still enthusiastic about punk, and that if I wanted things to change, it was important not to give it up, and continue to dream of something different. Punk is not the only way to achieve changes, but this is the place where I feel "at home", and as long as I will feel this way, I guess the label will continue...
- 3) Any particular favourite releases from the Stonehenge discography? Well, if I tell you that I basically love them all for one reason or another, it will sound totally cheesy, right? But, that's the truth. There is only four records that I don't really like in the whole Stonehenge discography, and it is mostly because I had issues with the people from the bands, etc... My favorites could be the Alactraz CD, the Undone 2nd 7", the To What End? LP, etc...

- 4) Most of the bands... In fact I think all, of the bands released by Stonehenge are French or have a French leaning somewhere. Do you release only French bands or is it all just a coincidence? Well, this is not true anymore. I just did a record with a spanish band (Ekkaia), a swedish band (To What End?), a canadian band (Uranus)... In the past, I also did records with Seelin' Red from the Netherlands, or E-150 from Spain... Basically, I have never set any kind of rules for the label. I just wanted it to be a "friend" orientated things. So, for a long while, I had all my friends in bands, and I wanted to help them out, and that's why I only did french bands back then. I like this aspect of the punk scene also, that by strengthening our local scene, we are building a better collective community together. Right now, what is happening is that I don't feel like there is way too much interesting things happening in France, and that's why I'm focusing less on my local scene...
- 5) You have been part of a few bands, ie: Undone, Fingerprint that have been one of the more influential, "cult" bands of the emo-hardcore scene. Were you in any other bands that I did not know about? How was it like being in those bands? Hahahah, I played in a lot of bands who did virtually NOTHING. After the demise of Undone, I played in a band with no name (with the Anomie singer, people from Season who are now playing in Amanda Woodward). I also played in another nameless band in Paris with the Undone guitar player... To be honest, I did countless of bands with friends at this time. Recently, I played in Inertle and Daymare. Well, being in a band is a rather interesting thing. Undone or Finger Print were never "cult" when we were alive, so it was nothing special really... We were just a bunch of friends living our passion for punk and alternative ways of life together...

6) How are hc punk shows like in France?

Well, it really depends on what city you are... Some city like Paris or Saint Etienne are very alive, with a wild audience. Some other cities (like my city) are more apathetic. The french d.i.y. hardcore/punk scene is a rather strange entity to say the least. The big issue here in France, is that there are not tons of people coming to gigs... The other thing is that mostly everything is done by nice people, and is not too much business orientated (which is good), but also, there is not a lot of "political" direction. It is "do it yourself" music, and I like this fact, of course, but most of the time, I wonder "why do people do this, and are not willing to also try to display there is a "bigger" project behind this, and why we do organize this way, and what we are trying to accomplish this way"...

7) Are you familiar with other performing art aspects in France? Theater? Dance? Fine art? Miming? Maybe you can tell me more about the cosmos of the French?

To be honest, I am not a cultivated person... I quit school very very early, and for some reasons, the only thing that school taught me was a real hatred for educated people. I'm coming from a poor/working class milieu, and when I went to school, the teachers were all too arrogant (at least, this was how I felt at this time). They were not caring about sharing a knowledge, they were too busy feeling superior than us... I don't know. It's hard to explain. School really taught me how to feel uncomfortable with educated people. Maybe I had an inferiority complex, but I decided to leave school early, as I didn't want to deal with this anymore. It took me ages to understand that education and schooling were two different things, and that being educated could be a great empowering thing. It took me ages to accept to start and educate me, probably because I had the stupid idea that if I was starting to get some education, I would look like all those people who despised me when I was a kid, because of my social class. I'm afraid, I'm not really taking part in "real life" enough to tell you more about the french artistic thing. Sorry, I'm not living a very "artistic" life, at least not in a "traditional" artistic way.

I realize that the internet is indeed changing our lives, and that it is playing its role in molding people as "cyber-consumer" instead of "regular consumer".

Christophe Mora

8) What do you do outside your label? Are you active in the socio-political arena? Are there regular demonstrations there? Is there a cause for struggle in France presently?

I'm part of a non-profit collectively run screen-printing space. I'm also part of an anarchist library, and I'm involved in our local anarchist center (which is an AMAZING place). This city is not a really political city... The local anarchist groups are very small (two anarchist groups affiliated to the french anarchist federation, with less than 8 people in total, and a 3rd group of anarchist students, more active than the rest). Here, demonstrations are usually very small, as nobody cares. This city is a rich city (but the neighbourhood where I live is a very working class/popular/leftist area, eheh), it is mostly about the wine culture (and in the past, the slave trade). It is a rich city, and people here want to keep their privileges alive. Big issues here in France are mostly the same than in the rest of the old european social-democratic countries. The liberal ideology is trying to destroy a system that was obviously not perfect, but that at least wasn't built for profit and business only. Our public services (gaz, water, post, electricity, health) are slowly being destroyed and substituted by private businesses here to make fucking profit. The french syndicalist left is really involved on these issues. The slow transformation of our world into a capitalist nightmare where every portion of our lives will be subdued to profit and economical fucking interests implies so many destruction, both socially (human relationships are now totally changed, profit and competition being instilled in our collective consciences as a "natural" thing), politically (the north still oppressing the south on a global level, and the rich having all rights to eliminate the poors on a more local level), culturally (with one culture being spread as the universal model), ecologically, etc... Then, there is the more "personal" struggles, like trying to refuse and destroy our education and habits, in terms of racism, homophobia, sexism, imperialism...

reaction to the desperate and destitute state of Argentina. This band is fucking wicked, hope to see them live someday. This tape can be sought after from [Degenerate Art, 21-03-29, Bandar Baru Sentul, 51000 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA]

MISTAKEN IDENTITY "Acoustic Demo" (CDr) : 2 songs of pop rock by a local upcoming band who all look like they revived the 70's. Nice cover. [www.mistakenidentity.has.it]

MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD "Nothing In Vain" (tape) : most of you would know this band already, playing metallic screamy hardcore. 12 songs and with a lot of those annoying 'abstract' lyrics. One of the many big influential hardcore units nowadays. I've personally outgrown stuff like this but if its for you then write to [Trustkill Records, 23 Farm Edge Lane, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724, USA]

M.T.A. "The Politics Of Denial" (CD) : Pissed hardcore punk from the UK. 7 songs of blatant and unabashedly political songs, including a Discharge cover. The booklet is simple with a photo of the band, lyrics and explanations and even reference points. Also, this is a benefit for the Asylum Seekers who have been subjected to unfair treatment by the state and mass media and there are some comprehensive liner notes in the CD shedding light on the refugee-bashing situation there. Finally a release which goes beyond the music and imagery. [Beat Bedsit Records, PO Box 2927, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 3SX, UK]

MUNTAH "Rot N Roll Bastard" demo (CDr) : like I mentioned earlier on in the zine this is cheesy mad crazy metal vomit rock and roll and this exemplifies it. Its really fun to listen to and it would help if you listen to this while reading a silly comic. It just exudes that kind of feel. Music has takes from all aspects of blast metal and rock and fucking roll with high pitched lyrics and laughable guitar solos. Interesting band. [Braindead Records, no address]

MY PRECIOUS "st" (CD) : I hate to use the word "hot" because that so belongs in mainstream pop culture, but then it's only fair that MP is termed one of the "hotter" bands in hardcore right now. Screamy post 'emo' hardcore with roots in punkrock. This full length totally justifies all the hype about them, fucking intense ripping screamed (and some parts sung) dual-female vocalled hardcore that is accentuated by 'personal' type lyrics that one can easily relate to a domestic or social situation/problem or maybe even life in general. 13 intricate songs from this Singapore outfit. A Jahil Rees (RIP) and Karatecore Records release. [Karatecore Records c/o Subaizan, 45-04-04 Pangsamurni Titirwanga, Keramat Jaya 2, 54000, Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA : <http://myprecious.rocks.it>]

NAILED DOWN "Resurrection" (CD) : Ob oh, the wolfpack from Down Under is back, and how. In hardcore punk there are 2 kinds of bands. 1 who preach to the unconverted and 1 who piss off the converted because the "converted" never really 'got it'. Nailed Down is the latter. Reknowned for the 'dirty' punk bc sound, this release is no different. Ultra pissed, hoarse, fucked up, bit part oi, bit part punk, many parts hardcore! Short no nonsense stuff, growling and yelling about all the fallacies of the scene and people you meet and know everyday. [First Blood Family, PO Box 11004, Portland OR 97211, USA : fbfinfo@comcast.net] NOTE NEW LABEL ADDRESS.

NUNSLAUGHTER reissue (tape) : This is the Rhapsodeath reissue of blackened thrash cult band NUNSLAUGHTER. Christfucking goatworshipping hate, taken from various releases in the long history of the band. For extreme goatlords. Enquire at [Sangara Records, PO Box 13288, 50806 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA : rhapso_death@yahoo.com]

xBIWANKENOBIx "For peace not war, for love oot hate" demo (CDr) : The one man grindcore project is back, though this time incorporating elements of 'emocore' and he now tinkers with samples and random sounds. For the uninitiated it is just like a regular band, only that instead of a real drumset he uses a keyboard with all these cool functions which you can fuck with and it is all recorded in his room. Lyrics (yes it is after all a punk project) about the alternative way of life, and all the things that revolve around it. It is overall a very original interesting project worthy of your attention, so get it. This is pussy emochaosgrind. [Hafiz, Tampines St 45, Blk 498F, #04-414, Singapore 524498, SINGAPORE : subsistencepunk@hotmail.com]

ONE MAN NATION "Requiem For A Government" demo (CDr) : a solo punkrock from Singapore, cynical yet untypical. 4 engaging tracks of punk without beats, fluctuating between singing, shouting and screaming. Addresses the evils of advertising and screaming for a change in society. A refreshing change from the predictable punkrock that comes out from the scene here. I really like how this is presented. [www.onemannation.tk : theelectricityouth@yahoo.com]

OUTRAGE "To terrorize ear and mind" (7"EP) : Now this actually an old release and the fuck knows if the band even exists anymore. However, I decided that since this release would safely end up amongst the 'essentials', why not list it down here. This release came out during the heavy hc Good Life evilcore explosion back in 1997 where everyone was straightedge vegan death black metal. This band does NOT belong to that category, instead this is just brutal heavy

CDr with separate artwork released by [Papakerna Records c/o Ahmad Nazier, 237, Jln A2 Tmn Melawati, 53100 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA]

KEEP LAUGHING demo (tape): From the ashes of Melee, in comes Keep Laughing. Interesting band name I must add. Awesome raw 7 song demo. All the songs seem to be a reaction to the recently re-elected Bush and his fucking policies. Raging Boston-stemmed thrash hardcore. [PO Box 471, Boston MA 02134, USA]

LAMANT demo (CDr): OH FUCK! utterly mindblowing thrashcore punk from Belarus! It says here on the sleeve that it's 'rec' 03'. Their 3rd rehearsal session? Maybe, I'm not sure. Fucking intense and energetic angry stuff. songs in Russian with English translations with a Chimera and Doom cover to boot. Songs regarding just about everything that's fucked. No cheesy slogans, no dumb looking fashion, just sincere and honest stuff. they deserve a proper release and that had better come soon just in case they decide to call it a day. I know this sounds dumb but it would be cooler if this was on tape. Why the fuck don't they list their postal address? [xerotika@newmail.by]

LUNARIN demo (CDr): from the ashes of upbeat indie rock outfit Fuzzbox comes Lunarin, merging the core veins of pop, rock and the in between jazz folk and blues (very subtly!) to form their own sound. It is rockish and melancholic at times, and while it could very easily be something on a Paul Zach radio show, it doesn't have the sugary politeness of Perfect 10. Now why the fuck am I even straying into that. If you want some honest pop-rock go email them at [theoracle@lunarin.com : www.lunarin.tripod.com]

MACHETAZO "The Maggot Session" (7"EP): over the top gargly sick grind from Spain, 5 tracks of psycho headbanging gut wrenching throat torturing slaughter. For those who are sick, by those who are sick. First Blood Family releases a lot of stuff which just rule, and this is definitely one of them, plus FBF are sincere humble and honest. Support. [First Blood Family, address elsewhere in this zine]

MAKHLOK PEROSAK "Demon system wants to eat you!" (tape): When I first put in on, immediately (mid 90s Johor hardcore band) Never Ending Threats came to mind. I don't know if the latter was an influence or not but it still made me wonder. Just when I thought the rest of the tape would be typical mid 90s LCHC/KLHC stuff, they exploded into fast thrash which is the rage there in Johor these days. 6 labels put this tape out. [Endup Records, 241 Jalan Ledang, Taman Johor, 81200 Johor Bahru, MALAYSIA]

MARJINAL "Termarjinalkan" (CDr): This is a fucking monumental release from this Indonesian anarcho street punk band. Sung in Bahasa Indonesia this is filled with 14 tracks catchy singalong anthemie punk which would be the antithesis of army platoon singalongs. I love how some parts are complimented by Indonesian folk music and traditional instrumentation. It is raw and I think this was mostly (or entirely) recorded within the premises of their collective. Hook laden, angry and crucial. Somebody put this on a proper release! CDrs never last! [tempequality@doityourself.com : PO Box 7735, JKS, LA Jakarta 12077, INDONESIA]

MASS GENOCIDE PROCESS demo (tape): This is a storm of manic doom nihil crustcore from Czech Republic. Play this fucking loud and it could spark a series of city riots against the fucked domination of the world by the state and corporations. Lyrics about war and technology and my copy came with stickers and a flyer. As I play and type this I foresee a crimson sky with fighter planes bombing civilisation and watch as the city burns to death. [Impregnate Noise Laboratories c/o Bobdan Mach, PO Box 2, 76361 Napajedla, CZECH REPUBLIC]

MELEE "Complete" (tape): I'm guessing this is the discography for Melee's entire existence. Melee is direct, socially aware thrashy hardcore. Sincere, to the point vintage Boston hardcore, no cheesy flip up caps and skateboard imagery. The vocalist is pissed, the music is energetic and I'm imagine their live sets to be warzones. Tracks taken from their various compilations and splits. [Gasmask Records, c/o Marek Rybensky, Haskova 1/32, 591 01 Zder N/S 6, CZECH REPUBLIC]

MEZA VIRS demo advanced (CDr): The only reason why I can't afford to ridicule this is because whatever they do, they do it well. Goth metal bands, the way I see it, are a bit of a joke with their cheesy imagery and poetic blablablas. On to the band. As a unit they are tight. Very tight. Basslines, drums, guitars, vocals (and I don't care if they cheated with effects or not) are all executed perfectly. Heavy symphonic 'goth' metal. It shows that, despite the cheesy goth metal image, they are serious about what they are doing. First song also includes a music video (!) which was also well-crafted, and the second song is a cover of Cradle Of Filth. From what I see the band could go anywhere between being a sorry COF clone or they could stamp their name by being *themselves*. Their original track, while supposedly filled with Shakespearean quotes, is an elaborate piece of art. Credits should go to the hard work put in, as for the content matter, that's another issue. And by the way, they're from Singapore in case you're asking. [mezvirs@hotmail.com]

MIGRA VIOLENTA "Superficial" (tape): Argentine thrashcore attack! Very energetic fast anthems screaming for change. I would compare them to Seein' Red if they were from Central / North America. Urgent angry screamy shit, a

9) The internet has changed the lives of everyone. Net-billing, once seen by the punk community as a reflection of Capitalism, is slowly being utilized by the people who once claimed so. What are your views on this? Well, I try to see this thing on a more global level... I realize that the internet is indeed changing our lives, and that it is playing its role in molding people as "cyber-consumer" instead of "regular-consumer". I realize that it is indeed a tool for spreading the capitalist ideology. But on the other hand, I try to see the positive aspects. In terms of communication, internet really changed my life for the better. Even with the mailorder, internet really changed things. I realize that internet is a fucking standardization tool, but just like anything, I will be tempted to say that we "alternative" people should be able not to let such a great tool in the hands of capitalist only. We have little power, but we can make some choices. Virtually, I think, as with any "technology", the issue should not be to "suppress" it when it can make some good. The issue as far as I'm concerned is to refuse to let such a tool in the hands of capitalist only. So, in a way, I'm very happy that internet gives me more and more opportunity to communicate fast and anywhere. I have no problem using internet on a daily basis, really. On the same time, I think we should always try to work on an alternative level, and not accept anything...

10) France is seen as a romantic country. Is it actually? Is the issue of sexuality very taboo over there? Are homosexuals, transsexuals accepted by society? Yeah, french people are very proud of their so-called "romantic" ways. To be honest, all I can see here is insecure people, unable to deal with sexuality outside of the hetero standards. I don't think french people are more comfortable with sexuality than any other western people. Our culture is based on a fucked up destructive division of roles based on patriarchal heritage. It is also so much based on "guilt". The result I think, is that both men and women still feel totally uncomfortable with their sexuality, the roles they have to submit to (in the past, it was "easier" to deal with them, since people were more submissive, and the social and personal issues were just ignored and were not collectively discussed... but now, in a time of "sexual revolution", "feminism", gay rights, etc., it's hard to live in such a schizophrenic state where we still have to continue reproducing basic sexist/homophobic behaviors, while pretending we are living in a "liberated", progressive time). People do talk a lot about sex. On the TV, in newspapers, in every discussions. Sex is everywhere. But I don't feel like it is making us any more happy and comfortable. We are still living in a sexist/homophobic culture, and we need to deal with it. We need to destroy the basis on our culture if we want to be able to deal with those issues without preconceptions.

"...I guess racism is another basis of our culture... Even at the anarchist center the other day, I heard an anarchist say really crazy shit about Muslims..." - Christophe Mora

11) Occasionally I read about some right wing politician from France making a fuss about immigrants. Is racism rampant there? Is there a strong Asian or African community down there in France?

I guess racism is another basis of our culture. I believe we still haven't totally dealt with that. How racism is basically a deep, deep inheritance that we still carry today. As with sexism/homophobia, we are living in a time where it is not "politically correct" to say racist shit. During the 60's and the 70's, white/imperialist people have been confronted with their racism like they never were, and had their nose stuck right into their own shit. We had to make some changes and leave some space. But still, people are raised with the certitude that their "race" did accomplish greater things, or whatever. We had to leave some space, but deep inside of us, nothing changed. We didn't really renounce our culture, we just re-arranged it so it can look more compassionate and caring. Racism is more subtle now in the western culture, but we are still totally submerged with global imperialist believes. And in a time of war on terrorism and all this shit, believe me, racism here has never felt so alive. Even at the anarchist center, the other day, I heard an anarchist say really crazy shit about muslims (okay, being anti-god is anarchist, but this guy wasn't just "anti-god", he was really making some fucked up preconceptions about the muslim religion, nothing he would ever do with christian religion) The biggest foreigner communities in France are from north Africa. We used marocco and algerian cheap labour to reconstruct our country destroyed during World War II. There is also a great spanish/portuguese community. And then, the asian community, that is also very big, but that came a bit later.

12) How's the mass media over there? Do they filter out a lot of facts? To what extent is their interpretation of "censorship"?

Well, they are just like anywhere, really... They are only dealing with the news from a dominant/ruling class perspective, so there is no room for alternative interpretation of facts, etc.

13) Post Sept 11 (the Twin Tower attacks in New York) has brought about a lot of racial discrimination and I foresee a bleak future. Is there a similar pertaining situation over there? In your view, who was actually behind the "terrorist" attacks?

Yeah, we are going 50 years back these days regarding racism... It is totally okay today to say crazy fucked up nonsense and generalities about "the muslims". The fear is just everywhere. I think we still have a fucking representation of the middle-east, arabic, etc... people. I don't know, a lot of doors are opened these days it seems... Doors that leads to more intolerance and ignorance. I really believe that we are going like 50 years back.

14) Would you ever come down to Asia someday? Be it for touring or just for leisure?

Well... I have no idea...

15) Been a great interview. Do list your contactables. Take care!

Thanks for your crazy patience dealing with me. I'm so slow, sorry. You can get in touch with me if you want to discuss some issues, or just to say hello.

Peace. Love. Anarchy.

Christophe xXx

STONEHENGE, B.P. 46, 33031 BORDEAUX CEDEX, FRANCE

website: www.stonehengerecords.com

online mailorder: www.stonehengerecords.com/mailorder

FAILURE TRACE "demo 1" (CDr): what a start from this young grindcore outfit from Thailand. A multi-racial cast which might contribute to the uniqueness of this. Political grind with shades of Japcore (the drummer is Japanese), early UK grind-crust and has the pace of modern fastcore. 3 songs in basic English, and 1 want more! [failuretrace@hotmail.com]

FALLEN WORLD "promo 2003" (CDr): Picking up where they previously left off with their first demo, this is a notch higher. 5 new tracks, 3 old ones and 2 from a jam session. All of the best quality, murky enough for grindcore yet not to the point of unlistenable. Political urgent furious, and in some instances, singalong grind. [fallen_world@hotmail.com]; [fallen_world@newdisorder.com]

FALLEN WORLD "Namath Porattam" demo (CDr): The title of this demo translates to "Our Protest" in Tamil. Their 3rd demo within 2 years or so, this is much more rawer than their earlier ones. Its still political, heavy and to the point. If they existed 10 years back and had demo tapes instead, kids would be clamouring to find them. Sick dirty furious pissed all-Indian grind.

FALLEN WORLD "promo 2004" demo (CDr): The latest FW demo and fuck this just kicks the previous demos off the shelves. Just when they couldn't surpass their already amazing "standards", they refreshed that perception with this release. With a new girl vocalist in the ranks (yet still maintaining the dual growl-high pitched vocals that is fast becoming vintage Fallen World), this release smokes. I will go as far as declaring that this deserves to be on vinyl. Tight, intense, urgent, energetic grindcore though this time with a generous dash of hardcore punk and accentuated by singalongs as well. Still political, still angry. 10 blast beats out of 10.

FREYGYLE demo (CDr): 3 songs of socially aware punkrock from Malaysia, sung in English. Its interesting how it is a merge of Propagandhi, early NOFX and even a bit of The Smiths, along with all the sensibilities that come with those bands. [Knot Records, 401 Block 17, Sect 8, 40000 Shah Alam, MALAYSIA; falling_sickness@lycos.com]

HARAKIRI demo (CDr): Finally the hc punk inspired grunge band from Singapore has put out a demo. Must respect them for still going at it with this genre, every other grunge band either grew up, played something else or died. 4 songs of grunge with the catchiest hooks, controlled drumming and meanest basslines. Overall really good. Lyrics are personal and also have a social-awareness undertone though generally it screams for individuality respect and understanding. The final song (The Day She Fell) is my personal favourite which is draggy heartfelt emotional rock. Disc also contains 2 of their live feeds. Support! [street address turned out blurry so try iamharakiri@yahoo.com]

HELLBLAZER "Knives, Forks, Scissors and Deadly Hot Pokers" (tape): This tape is an official Asian reissue of this brutal hc grind band. 10 ear-ripping songs, including 4 live tracks plus an Autopsy cover. The weird tape printing made the lyrics annoying to read but this was still a worthy listen. Nothing groundbreaking but not boring either. [Pure Minds Records, Lot 267, Kg Che Zaimal, Tambahan 1, 31200 Chemor, Perak, MALAYSIA]

HEN "pre-demo" (tape): what the fuck is a pre-demo demo? I've had enough complications for the year to go into serious thought of that though. When I found out about this "Hokkiengrind" band I recalled the days when L(II)N used to spoof all the hits we knew off and replacing the actual songs with Singlish banter. This band doesn't quite do that, but they are a grindcore band with a Hokkien theme. Crazy discordant 3 piece churning out blast after blast of ear-bleeding grind inter-cut by all sorts of samples especially (and this is expected) those of crude Hokkien movies. Fucking hilarious tape sleeve with the legend Lau Fu Zhi making an appearance (along with his short fat balding friend). [henn@token.co.jp]

HUDUD demo 2004 (CDr): one of the frontliners of modern grind in Singapore. 5 days of brutal dual vocalled grind with shades of heavy hardcore, taking influences from (and I bear traces of) Sayyadina, Phobia, Caliban and their ilk. [Zarifi, Blk 381 Clementi Ave 5, #09-384, Singapore 120381, SINGAPORE; hududgrindcore@hotmail.com]

IEATME demo (CDr): Screamy emo post hc from Japan. Can be compared to Gauge Means Nothing some parts, Passing Truth Drive at others and has Envy tendencies at other parts. No lyrics, 2 songs. [ieatme@hotmail.com]

JAZZUS discography (tape): collection of the million racks of this Brazilian thrash / pisscore / blastcore unity. 46 tracks from their previous demos and projects. No song lyrics just the titles and the coherent translation. [Triak Records c/o Ari Bowkore, Jln Putera Rt 05/14 No 49, Depok 16436, INDONESIA]

KALASHNIKOV "Songs about amore and revolution" (CD): This is a 9 label release (yes, NINE) of a wonderful Italian band that has also been interviewed in this issue (in case you weren't paying attention). 10 songs of melancholic heartfelt goosepimple-forming opera punkrock. Lyrics and vocals in Italian which just blends well, its melodic and soothing at some parts, and even the subtle ska parts don't bother me so much. The artwork fits so well! Released by KDV Records, amongst many others (see Kalashnikov interview for contact details). There is also a reissued version on

Indonesia. Though I wish they could get away from the blur pisscore thing and make more stuff like their material on side B, which is viciously fast crust. [Movement Records, PO Box 6371/JKSGU Jakarta 12063, INDONESIA : www.diymoment.com]

DISORDER demo (CDr) : 4 songs of hip hop metal influenced 'commercial hc' sung in Thai. Very Slipknot, Korn type stuff. No lyrics. [puwanart@eotoday.com]

DOMESTIK DOKTRIN "Manufacturing Karma" (7" EP) : Intelligent, abrasive and over the top basement thrash from Indonesia. Lyrics which should incite some thought, with some lyrics written in Bahasa Indonesia as well. You have lyrics, translations, explanations and even quotes. Intelligent, critical and spot on with their arguments and they churn out one of those hyper speed thrashcore attacks that you're often left behind just when you're about done reading the song title. Like all vinyl releases of South East Asian bands, this is monumental. Comes with an A4 poster-type drawing. [625 Thrashcore, Po Box 423413 San Francisco CA 94142-3413, USA]

DREAD 101 (tape) : Asian press of this Czech crustcore/hc outfit. Over 20 tracks taken from their previous releases, this fucking rips. It's got that monotone D beat crust attack (which a lot of crust detractors would call "boring") which just sets my blood running. Lyrics cover a whole range of aspects from ecological disaster to media and state control to slavery to sexuality. Argh! [Dratsab Records, #2A Jln Kampong Chachar, Kuala Jempul, 71100 Bahau N. Sembilan, MALAYSIA]

DYSTOPIA "The Aftermath..." (CD) : Warped, brutal, stoned out hardcore that is in a league of a few. The artwork for this release is shocking to say the least. It almost seems like each song is generated from one of those poems you write and illustrate with a flicker of inspiration, and the music just comes from observing the end product. This has an overpowering gloomy element to it, fuckkkkk. 12 songs of a pre-emptive apocalypse. A 3 label effort. [Life Is Abuse, PO Box 20524, Oakland, CA 94620, USA : www.lifeisabuse.com]

EARTH TODAY "2001-2002" (tape) : When I got this in the mail, I glanced at the promo flyers and went... FUCK! FINNISH HC CRUST! So I sat back and played this on. It is an intense, subversive assault indeed, like most Finnish bands. It wasn't a blast but a continuous shifting between intense gloomcore and the crust avalanche. Though I expected some old style Finnish hc (ala Selfish and the like) I was not disappointed. Brings to mind Kirus though, and some aspects of modern Finnish hc punk. Its got the overall morbid depressed Scandinavian hardcore feel and that is more than enough for me. Tracks taken from their various compilations and demos/splits. [Bullwhip Records c/o Bothan, No 9 Jalan 3/4 G, 43650 Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor D.E., MALAYSIA : bogethumb@hotmail.com]

E.B.S. "Destroy Your Enemy" (12" LP) : I first saw this at a friend's place in Kuala Lumpur and flipped through the lyrics without listening to the record. I had an adrenalin rush just reading the lyrics and their extensions, which reeks nihilism and depressive hate. I jotted down the address of the label and worked out a trade. Now with the record in hand I must say THIS IS FUCKING CRUCIAL. Extreme, nihilist, provoking and pissed hatecore punk. Piercing in its words and condemning the various fucked up aspects of society and the blatant hypocrisies of the modern hc punk scene, however they all made sense to me and not just drunk renderings! Can be compared to Rupture and Crippled Bastards. An aural assault of distorted hc punk. Its not out of control noise though yet ravaging D-beatish straight up fucked up hardcore!!!!!! Yes! [Vicious Interference, PO Box 2331 Lando Lakes Florida 34639-2331, USA]

EIGHTEEN VISIONS "the best of" (tape) : Post metalcore. 90s 'chaotic' hardcore stuff further escalated by singing, emo parts and poetic lyrics. It's a bit on the heavy side of things, and could probably just blend in the Converge and chaotic hardcore family tree. Extended lyrics with some serious undertones though I would prefer to not have to spend too much time wondering what is trying to be said. This is not slander, just an honest view of things. For fans of heavy metallic hardcore. [Trustkill Records, 23 Farm Edge Lane, Tinton Falls NJ 07724, USA]

ENDSTAND "Never Fall Into Silence" (CD) : what I have here is a promo advance CD of their release on Day After Records. This Finnish band has been around for years and have won support with their brand of melodic punk hardcore. Can be compared to Ignite and a lot of melodic hardcore bands of that era. This didn't come with artwork or lyrics, so I can't really say so much about the 10 songs. I haven't said hello to Janne for years, so I guess it's a sign that I should. [Day After, PO Box 153, 35201 AS, CZECH REPUBLIC : info@dayafter.cz]

EVERYBODY LOVES IRENE demo (CDr) : Mmmm... superb dream pop. Slow groovy basslines and jazzy drumming and the melancholy of the synth as well as the angelic vocals. Relaxed guitars and the off beat but essential harmonics. Ah... its haunting yet soothing. Perfect for slow walks across the beach at dusk or lazy Sunday mornings before the sun fully rises. 3 songs with 1 intro and 1 outro. I find it strange that they have a manager and publicist. [c/o Bowo, Jl. Karet Belakang III #8, Jakarta 12920, INDONESIA]

AMIR MUHAMMAD interview

I was at an independent film screening at the Substation Guinness Theater 2 years back and chanced upon many worthy films, some of which had a tinge of good-natured sarcasm to it. And when I found out that the aforementioned 'sarcastic' films were produced by a film-maker by the name of Amir Muhammad, I told myself that I had to contact him sooner or later. Fast forward to late 2003; I was in Kuala Lumpur on tour with Steve Towson and chanced upon a Video CD containing Amir Muhammad's 6 shorts, a collection of six of his works. I immediately recognized some of the films, including "Checkpoint" which intrigued me the most. His email address was listed to my glee, and like they say the rest is history...

1) so who is Amir Muhammad, where is he from, where is he based and what does he do?

I sometimes wonder myself. I am a Malaysian writer and independent movie maker, mostly based in KL but I have been travelling a lot.

2) I see. I first saw your work at a film fest at the Guinness Theater in Singapore, were you selected to screen your films there? how? did you submit the videos as a demo or did the organizing body contact you from hearing about you somewhere?

All the shorts had screened at the Singapore International Film Festival before, so the Substation film curator wanted to show them again.

3) are doing films your stronghold in your artistic outputs? do you also participate in musical projects for instance? I've never done musical projects. I mainly write and direct.

4) your topics in the short video "6 Shorts" are generally very thought-provoking and in some senses are also controversial. what is the basis of your film ideas? the way I see it, it's a brave questioning of the status quo from someone raised in Malaysia... or maybe I'm wrong?

I get my ideas from things happening in my head and around me, I suppose. It doesn't require much bravery.

5) you're currently in Indonesia yes? another film project? how is Indonesia like with regards to your work? have things been rough? smooth? what's next on your agenda for the rest of 2004 / early 2005?

Indonesia (or rather Jakarta since I've never left the city) is very interesting. I am doing a documentary around the making of a big Indonesian feature film "Gie" which will be completed in early 2005. I've made several friends here, so life is good.

6) are you very involved in the arts scene in Malaysia? what comparisons can you draw between whatever that's going on there and elsewhere (like in Singapore for instance)?

I am no longer involved in theatre but I do keep in touch. Compared to Singapore, there's less sponsorship for arts events here. But we muddle through somehow!

sharing his thought is an uncensored way
AMIR MUHAMMAD

6
Shorts

7) I got your video off a Malaysian DIY > music-literature-art distribution. how did that deal come about? do you agree that more of the "punkrock-based" distributions should also go beyond the regular music and literature?

Oh, the guy just emailed and asked for permission to copy it, so I said Sure. It's such an honour to be bootlegged.

8) which brings me to the idea of copyrights. do you agree to copyrights? should there or is there already a fine line between cold piracy and duplication for artistic reasons?

Copyright is important to acknowledge that the work was created by someone. But Malaysia would be a barren wasteland if it hadn't been for piracy, so I am not all that vehement about it.

6horts

Amir has an impeccable knack for high-lighting the ridiculous in things we all take for granted as normal. This is particularly evident in his recent collection of short films, 6horts, where routine activities such as custom checklines and Friday prayers go under the matter-of-fact view his 'tenses'.

- KLue

- 9) culture, this region is very rich in that, however it also deprives most of its people(s) from a lot of creativity and derails a lot of self-honesty. have you, at any point of time, felt that your artistic integrity was restrained by your seemingly conservative surroundings?

Well, the people I hang out with aren't the most conservative sectors in the society. But "self-honesty" as you put it is important. It's always tempting to merely follow trends or toe the line. Resist!

- 10) you might already have experienced this, but you create something new and foreign to your immediate surroundings and people call you "someone who is trying too hard". While at the same time, someone else on the other side of the fence would call you "Westernized". how would you react to stuff like that?

Actually the very low-tech method of "6horts", for example, got some people thinking that I hadn't tried hard enough! But the local audience response has mainly been positive. I personally would always appreciate it if someone were to try something new. And like most urban Malaysians I am Westernised in some ways, I don't have a problem with that. Even the idea of "getting in touch with one's roots" is pretty Western, no?

- 11) the idea of "reality TV" has been around for quite a long time, until Hollywood manufactured, sealed it and sold it off as a lucrative package. as a film maker yourself what do you think of the recent boom in "reality TV" shows?

I've never watched any, so can't comment.

Frighteningly enough, I don't have the attention span for TV nowadays.

LOST (9.5 min)
279,854 Malaysian identity cards were reported missing in the year 2001. This is the story of just one.

KAMUNTING (15 min)
A visit to a prisoner of the Internal Security Act. But is photography permitted?

CHECKPOINT (7 min)
Travel in the post-Osama world can get complicated - especially if you insist on travelling cheap.

FRIDAY (8 min)
An afternoon at the National Mosque encourages thought both sacred and profane.

PANGYAU (12.5 min)
Cantonese lessons reminded me of a friend who is no longer here. Which is not to say he's dead.

MONA (6.5 min)
The notorious murder case gets the radio-serial treatment. What does a girl have to do to get attention here?

- 12) if you have enough funds and resources to do any 3 films what would they revolve around?

There are at any moment lots of ideas tossed around. A modern re-telling of an old Malay epic. A porn documentary. And an ultra-ultra commercial blockbuster. Maybe all 3 can be combined...

- 13) any fresh ideas that you can give us a preview of? future plans, collaborations, maybe a movie even?

My experimental romance "Tokyo Magic Hour" will premiere in KL in July. It was shot last year but editing took longer than usual. On the cards is a semi-musical documentary called "The Last Communist" (Lelaki Komunis Terakhir).

- 15) how can people contact you?

Email kancah2001@yahoo.com

Regards,
Amir.

supported by:
AddAudio, Bread Productions, Doghouse 73, Kakasari.com, Kino, onehundredeye, Red Communication, 3rdly, VHO, NOSC
re-release in DVD version with permission by PAPA KEMA (distro tecs and everything nice)
<http://www.papa-kema.com>

'reflective' emo parts. 9 songs of self-scrutiny. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to call this a Born Against / Deathwish Kids mutation. I enjoyed this and I hope to hear more from this band. No address. [medialyachmot@hotmail.com]

CATHODE "A machine that never falters" (tape) : Even before listening to the tape I sensed that this would be something I'd appreciate within the first song. Depressed modern hardcore. I was right. The tape cover depicts a grey landscape, and the lyric booklet (which has text in English and Czech) provides insights which might (or not) have occurred to you. Sorrowful, yet hoping, satisfied yet distressed. [Insane Society Records, PO Box 6 501 01 Hradec Kralove, CZECH REPUBLIC]

CONTAINER CRUSTIES FROM HELL "2003" (tape) : About 5 years or so ago I caught CCFH when they played at Costa Sands with a host of other bands. What I have here is a tape version of an LP released on Maloka. This is drastically political, pro hitch-hiking grind punk. No lyrics on the tape but extensive explanations on the songs, which to me are equally fruitful, since most grind/crust bands scream indecipherable shit anyway. If you need a musical reference point for this band, I would say along the lines of Entrails Massacre and Hellation. Also includes an acoustic (using Portuguese traditional instruments) interlude in the middle of the tape as well as a live Dropdead cover. [Dratsab Records c/o Kamal Ishak, #2A Jln Kampong Chachar, Kuala Jempol 72100 Bahau Negeri Sembilan, MALAYSIA]

CONTRA LA CONTRA demo : A friend sent me this on CD actually but since he also made a copy of the insert (which is actually a tape) I decided to review it. How often do you get good political bc crust sent in from Belarus, which is exactly where this band is from. Tackles the standard punk issues of fucked up media, politicians, multinational corporations and all. Deal male female vocals screamed and shouted in Russian and its great that English translations are provided. Music is pretty much basic hardcore punk with just a bit of variation now and then. 16 tracks plus really one intense live track. [PO Box 237, 230023, Grodno, BELARUS : contra@ut.by]

CRIPPLE BASTARDS "Il Grande Silenzio" (7"EP) : its an old record I know, but I don't give a fuck, ultra radical offensive blasting thrashgrind from these Italian maniacs. They're sick of society, hypocrisy and a lot of bullshit and don't give a fuck about bc punk taboos (like how they attack so-called feminist hypocrisy in one of their songs) and aren't afraid to speak their minds. Now that's fucking punkrock. The label that released this is no longer in existence, the guy now runs First Blood Family. Info elsewhere. [Rhetoric Records]

CRISIS WHAT CRISIS? "Christopher Street Day" (CDEP) : I found the cover fucking hilarious. Bush and Arnie posing as a married couple in front of the White House. This is definitely state bashing and I like! 4 songs of upbeat punk reminiscent of Propagandhi, early Offspring (Ignition era) and all them bands in between them. America is policed by the state, media and corporate monopoly and they address that in songs in hope of a better future. [Friendly Cow Records c/o Emka, Thumbstr. 72, D-51103 Cologne, GERMANY : www.friendlycow.de]

DEAD CHRETIENS demo (tape) : This is fucked up sucky Canadian nihil punk who have nothing to say but be offensive. The sound is low-fi and annoying but I saw the funny side of it, which, ironically has a serious message outlining how punk now has watered down into an image factory of boring clean music, tattoos which look stupid and inch perfect mohawks, as well as bitching about paying too much tax. No lyrics, rehearsal quality sound and bad everything, apart from the fact that they sound snotty at times, messy at others, and Discharge-like furious sometimes. But I like! At least it isn't pretentious. Go check the interview for contact details and further bad manners.

DEADFISH "Afasia" (CD) : A pretty good full length by this Spanish melodic punk/bc outfit. Lyrics in Spanish with no translations @. Musically they bring to mind stuff in the Pennywise, NOFX vein, and are pretty rocking. I like this band though I wish I knew just what the fuck they're saying. [Friendly Cow Records c/o Emka, Thumbstr. 72, D-51103 Cologne, GERMANY : www.friendlycow.de]

DEADBYSIX demo (CDr) : the 3rd DEAD band in this review section. Haha. Anyway this is brutal deathcore, mercilessly pounding at you. 6 songs reminiscent of old Ringworm and some parts Morning Again. All songs clock in at a few minutes at least and end off with an acoustic piece. But where the fuck is the lyric sheet? Argh. Suspiciously familiar looking logo too! [deadby6@hotmail.com]

DIGITUS IN RECTO "This is Mandarincore!!!" (tape) : with a strange band and a stranger release title I half expected something sung in Mandarin and played weirdly. This is still weird, just funny cheesy modern rock with 1001 influences. After a while I got used to it and before I know it I liked it! It's grungecore with a strong feminist/butchcore inclination. Sung in heavily (European) accented English, this is escapist grungecorepunkrock if there ever is such a thing. [Hirax Records, c/o Pavel "Hirax" Baricak, Jana Martaka 33, 03608 Martin 8, SLOVAKIA]

DISOBEDIENCE "Fight War Fight Class" (tape) This bunch look like a bunch of chaos punks, and the beginnings of their songs always seem like the appetizer for a chaos pogo punk attack but then they suddenly attack you with blast after blast of growls and shrieks, along with elements of pisscore. Chaos thrashy anti government pisscore from

hardcore, screamed and anguished cmo he that just rocks without a distortion overload. Comes packaged in a cotton bag with the band logo embroidered on it, as well as a strange envelope and what I assume is a lyric sheet. [Dn-Doh Records]

ANTI-CIMEX "Country Of Sweden" (tape) : ESSENTIAL Swedish hardcore from the early years. Anti-Cimex is one of the pillars of Scandinavian hardcore, past and present. Doomed, gloomy Dbeat hardcore punk. 17 tracks in this release. Distributed by [Sangara Records, PO Box 13288, 50806 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA]

ANTI-MILITARY "Tundnk Diam Ditindas, Atan Bangkit Melawan" (CDr) : As you know, my Bahasa is horrible but I'll try translating the title. On second thought go ask someone else. But it definitely is between the lines of "shut up and let yourself be oppressed, or stand up fighting". Whatever. Now known as MARJINAL this is raw, low-fi street punk. Anthemic, political and hopeful stuff demanding a change in the corrupted systems of Indonesia, from the military to the human right abuses. 12 songs of catchy heartfelt street battle cries. Take this to the streets and destroy, destroy!!!! I am so hooked on this band. [tempequality@doityourself.com : PO Box 7735, JKS, LA Jakarta 12077, INDONESIA]

ANTI-MILITARY "Rasia, Fasis" (CDr) : Once again, my current favourite band in Indonesia. Still retains the raw recording which sounds like it was recorded in the 70s and the rage, spite and disgust. This is the voice of the streets. 14 great, timeless anthems which should be properly archived. The lousy quality of the CDr with its incessant skipping spoils the mood but yes, I am converted! [tempequality@doityourself.com : PO Box 7735, JKS, LA Jakarta 12077, INDONESIA]

AXT : NB HARDCORE demo (tape) : Now what kind of a dumb name is AXT.NB.HARDCORE? I had trouble figuring out what the fuck the band name was (and, uh... I'm still not 100% certain now). Co-released by Uglysmokers Tapes and Malignant Horst Tapes (Germany), this is blasting he-grind reminiscent of Wojciech and Entrails Massacre. No lyrics. Bah. [Uglysmokers Tapes c/o Hisham, No 4 Jalan 24/29, Section 24, 40300 Shah Alam, Selangor MALAYSIA : uglysmockcore@hotmail.com]

BANGSAT "No For This Insane" (CDr) : out of control noisy grindy thrashy stuff (I tend to call it "pisscore") out of Indonesia. The recording is pretty decent, you can still make out tempo changes, drums and all so it doesn't sound so bad. Political lyrics in English advocating freedom, anti racism, anti-war... you know the drill. 15 tracks of blastbeatcore frenzy from this Indonesian band. [Asusila Records, Kemanggisan Ilir VI No 78, Palmerah, Jakarta Barat 11480, INDONESIA : asusilarecords@yahoo.com]

BARACKCA "Open Your Mouth" (CDr) : Raise your clenched-fist salute when you play this because that's the whole feel it gives. Hopeful, angry, fast punk screaming for a change in society. The opening song begins slow and melodic and just explodes into a fast stream of hardcore punkrock, which transcends to the rest of the album. Lyrics in Hungarian with English translations, and expressed in a part narrative and part direct way. 19 songs of furious anarcho hardcore punk. The cool thing is a few days after I write this I will be on tour with them. [Nemart, Pf:1108, Budapest 1463, HUNGARY : www.barackca.hu]

BETERCORE "Youtherust Discography" (CD) : Dutch hardcore has always been an integral part of the past and present 'fast hardcore' scene with Larm, Manliftingbammer, Seein' Red, Vitamin X influencing many around them. Betercore may not be that old, but this is testament that sooner or later they will be lumped into the very 'hardcore memory pool' that I'm talking about. And why not? This is thrashcore. No shit no image no gimmicks no imitating of American bands, just countless fists of furious hardcore thrash blasts, and all songs under or around a minute. Very intelligent lyrics. This is the official Asian repress by Karatecore and Sxetan Collective [Karatecore Records c/o Suhaizan, 45-04-04 Pangsamurni Titiwangsa, Keramat Jaya 2, 54000, Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA : or : Sxetan Collective, Blk 116 Potong Pasir Ave 1, #03-918, Singapore 350116, SINGAPORE]

BEYOND DESCRIPTION "Feed us war... fight for peace" discography (tape) : BD is fast paced punk hardcore from Japan and this is their discography of their material between 92-96. One of the more renowned Japcore bands of the mid 90s. [Faded Home Recordings, 842-7 Myungryun 2, Gangwon, Wonju, 220-949, S.KOREA]

BILEPUSCESS "Pathogoric Gastronomical Fiesta" demo (tape) : This is sick disturbing gorecore - grind for twisted fucks. Murky rehearsal recording with haunting cadaver tunes (think early Carcass), 6 original tracks plus a bonus of their mainly-covers set at Costa Sands. I remember how crazy the set was and I nearly got crushed by flailing bodies in front of the stage. Back to the demo, I like how the inlay reads like a Menu. This is mine for keeps. [Bilepuscess, 23 Mayflower Terrace, Singapore 568566, SINGAPORE]

BRAND DISLOYALTY demo (tape) : There's something which intrigues me about the band name, which screams anti capitalism/consumerism. This is post he punk with some fast parts (ala Deathwish Kids), a dash of folk punk and

UNUSUAL S

ANTI - MUSIC



So what the fuck is anti-music? Is it a bunch of weirdos who hate music? Is it a religion?

Is anti-music safe to eat? Is it dangerous? Is it a new weapon of messy destruction?

But why? Isn't music part and parcel of the world, of life?

Anti-music is a term shared and understood by those in the noise scene. Those who tinker with sounds as a means of expression and experimentation. Contrary to popular perception, anti-music is not 'against music'. The "anti" in this context is to be construed in the same way as "Black Flag are the anti-heroes of punk" or "William Hung is the anti-celebrity".

Noise, experimental sounds, evant garde, harsh noise, abstract soundscapes, ambient, static noise, an ensemble of teaspoon clickers, the sound of the wind and an uncanny series of thunder claps can be perceived as anti-music. It could have potential composition. It could have unintended harmony. It could just be a wall of irrational sound.

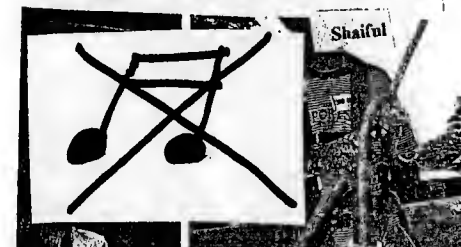
In other words Anti-music is theoretically non-music but lumped in the same league as music anyway.

#1000 numbered pro-pressed discs
37 bands - 80 mins - cd text
16-page oversized color booklet
rodek kopel, llpovo 1123
434 01 most, czech republic
<http://nopolweb.host.sk>
us\$/euro 8.- (ppd)
noise, industrial, experimental, ...
compact disc compilation series

onomalous silence
no.6



Anti-music. Choice of the new composition...



Jorge Castro La Tranquilidad de tu Presencia
Double CD-R of minimalist guitar ambient from founding member of Puerto Rico's Cornucopia
Available May 8, 2000 From Fusion Audio Recordings @ www.digital-intersect.com/fusion/

Sweeping up dirt...

I used to do janitorial work to save up for stuff. To send packages, to go on tour, to print this fucking rag you're reading and more.

I remember getting all these comments from fellow 'punk' telling and asking me why? WHY ARE YOU A CLEANER SHAFUL?
What the fuck, don't look at me like it's a sin!

At least a cleaner's job is an honest one. They help keep places clean so you motherfuckers won't get diseases. You motherfucking drunk punk smoke and drink and spit your yucky mucus and throw all that shit on the floor which cleaners help to clean up. You assholes just litter and litter with no regard to the poor "Bangle" dude who is trying to earn a living cleaning all that up.

Talk so much shit about anarchy and equality but still work jobs for stupid corporations who just destroy the earth while cleaners work for small companies and keep places clean.

Talk so much shit about how workers are suffering but you still fucking spit and break your beer bottles on the street. Fuck you!

The worst comment I've gotten was "are you going to be a cleaner forever?". Man, what the fuck is that supposed to mean?

Firstly I won't be a cleaner forever. In fact I'm not going to be ANYTHING forever because 1) most jobs suck 2) I get bored easily 3) there is more to life than work.

Secondly cleaner's pay sucks, it's unhygienic and I don't get the thanks I deserve. From all you two-dimensional bastards especially.

Thirdly, when are YOU going to get a life?

Shaful

MR. DON'T GIVE IN DON'T GIVE IN TAKE IT - CHILL

INTERNATIONAL HARDCORE / CRUST / BRUI / NOISE COMPILED
BANDS ARE: FORCA MACABRA, MASHIN ROT, EXISTENCE MELLE,
JAPURA, NOISE PROJECT, DIXON, THE KILL, ETC. INCLUDING
IS BANDS / 47 SONGS + 24 PAGES BOOKLET, COME WITH
SIMPY SLEEVE PRINTED, ORIGINAL RELEASED BY
NOISE ATTACK PHILIPPINES, REMIXED AND
DISTRIBUTED IN INDONESIA BY TERIAK RECORD
AND KOLEKTIF RECORD, LIMITED STUFF!

PRICE CD/D: Rp 13.000 (INDONESIA) / \$ 2.000 (US) WORLD
DIRECT BY HAND FOR ORDER

NOISE ATTACK 001 // KOLEKTIF 002 // TERIAK 012

TERIAK RECORD
c/o: Ari Bowkore - Jl. Palaru RI 05114 4019 - Depok 16436, Indonesia
www.geocities.com/proproscene or email: teriakuraku@hotmail.com

spunkzine@yahoo.com

**DEAD
CHRISTIANS**

New
Album
"WEATAX"

\$5

Canadian
Drunk Punk

\$10

Buttons
Stickers \$1

\$2 Shipping

Spunk P. PO Box 102
Cobalt, ON, POJ 1C0
Canada

spunkzine@yahoo.com

feed the poor.
eat the rich.

food not bombs hungary is an independent network of free thinking individuals. we cook **vegetarian meals** for mainly **homeless** people and serve it on the streets. at the same time we shape our actions to **protest war and poverty** throughout the world and to promote a new attitude of a truly free society where free association, individual and collective liberties and joint activity make up the core of a **new lifestyle**. we are looking for people and organizations who also think that another world is possible and necessary.



c/o H-1476 Budapest, PO Box 113
Hungary, Europe, Earth
foodnotbombs@freemail.hu
fnbmenu.blogspot.com

Did you know? : the corporate tobacco and alcohol industry tests on animals (for supposed cancer research) and some beers also contain animal products? Do take note of what you consume.

a random discussion on prostitution, a lifted essay on the so-called War On Terror, a discussion on the Iraq war, a multi-dimensional survey on the issues of Revolution and Prejudice, a review of a friendly mass-jamming session, a letters section and mini excerpts on random topics. Also some bits in Malay which I didn't understand. Haha. The mantle of this issue is the huge, very indepth interview with Jahilia and Secret 7. FV is of a similar vein as its other half in this split effort. Interesting communiqués and columns (regarding the state of hc punk today and the existence of God (more against the 'using' of God to justify certain causes rather than an anti-God take), McDonald's and other random topics. An indepth interview with Steve Towson, Kaivosurma, Kung Fu Rick and Mass Separation and some reviews. This issue signs off with a very constructive discussion on the marijuana and its uses/abuses. Centrespread of this effort is the map of the world with a WE ARE HERE caption arrowed at Malaysia, where both zines are from.
[Austere : austere_zine@hotmail.com]
[Free Voice : Isma, No 4, Jalan Padi Huma 5, Bandar Baru Uda, 81200, Johor Bahru, Johor, MALAYSIA : killedbysociety@yahoo.com]

FREE FROM PENURY #2 / HUH! Zine #5 : Both zines are from Malaysia, and definitely one of the better split zine projects around. FFP is written by the guy behind Airtight Container zines, and also Cactus Distro/Records. This is a to-the-point hc punk politics zine with a simple (but neat) layout and great content. The FFP half begins with a journal-cum-column section written by the editor who describes the more interesting facets of his life, his opinions on the hc punk scene as of recent years and so forth. It then drifts immediately into guest columns, which needless to say is made up of all sorts of views and opinions. Interesting interviews with New Winds, Opus Dead and Summer League, a scene report from Bremen (Germany), music and zine reviews and all that stuff you expect in hc punk zines. HUH! is basically a paper version of a live journal with many things to say. Made up of critiques of the social stereotype of a 'beauty', a diary-like piece on a few days of the editor's life in Malaysia, a random jargon of writings revolving around whining, frustration, joy and solace (the most provoking was the editor's experience of sexual harassment when she was 9) and lots of lots of poems. I would say HUH! is one of those zines you would read while sitting around at a quiet park bench waiting for the sun to set.
[FFP c/o Wan Hazril, E4/366, Kampung Pulau Lang Kiri, 26800 Kuala Rompin, Pahang, MALAYSIA : cactusdistro@yahoo.com]
[HUH! c/o Syik, 503 Semarak 10, Taman Panchor Jaya, 70400, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan, MALAYSIA : pheri_kechil@lycos.com]

< AUDIO REVIEWS >

(will review anything in tape, vinyl or CD formats. Only officially released demo CDs will be reviewed, though I can relax the rules @ I am a sucker for tapes so send tapes whenever possible).

A FRIEND FOR LIFE - "Anti-Jedi Campaign" (tape) : This is cool, fast energetic hardcore from Bandung, Indonesia. I don't know what they meant with the whole anti-Jedi thing, and I'm not too bothered because I don't care about Star Wars. Great lyrics questioning the status quo of the current hc punk scene. [Dani, Jalan Bakti #9, Bandung 40161, West Java, INDONESIA : communication4life@yahoo.com]

AGENTS OF ABHORRENCE demo (tape) : This features members of Australian post-punk band My Disco, so this might shock a few people. Extreme blasting non stop grind from this 2 piece. Not the old way, just a thick wall of noise with a careful modern taste. Lyrics are unpretentious 2 or 3 liner notes. Fucking crazy. [Crashing Jets, GPO Box 3341, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, AUSTRALIA]

AIDS - "fuckface" (CD/EP) : firstly the packaging. Its on one of those odd rectangular CDs. No idea if its CD or CDr. Probably CDr. Comes in a small red cloth packet and some stickers. Now the band. Its heavy fast hc, bordering on powerviolence and thrash. 7 songs in 3 minutes, no lyrics though they have an 11 song 7" on Gash Records. My memory recalls that they are from Australia but then I could be wrong. [fuckface.winterbus.com]

ANODE "a/t" double (7"EP) : Fucking awesome release from my favourite Japanese emocore heroes. Anode are jazzy post hardcore-ish screamy stuff, blown away the first time I heard them, so when this came in I was elated. Released on Dan-Doh records, a very under-rated punk label out of Japan. 4 songs on 2 slabs of vinyl, though I can't understand the lyrics at all since they're in Japanese. [Dan-Doh Records, "K-Club" Honmachi 2-1-21, Palms Bld BF, Kochi City, 780-0870, JAPAN]

ANODE "s/t" (7"EP) : Man I don't know if there is a title at all to this release because its all in Japanese. I assume that this is their 3rd release, having reached me just a few weeks before I type this. Again unleashing their brand of post

LOVE CONQUERS ALL

VIOLENCE #4 : One of the few magazines in the world where I look forward to, honestly. Its primarily a hardcore punk thrash grind magazine, good quality prints, a plethora of interviewees from the crust hc punk grind thrash metal spectrum. A bit like most metal magazines out there but without the cheesy blood Satan evil 666 goatworship shit. Interview as Hellnation, RAMBO, Apethetic Youth, Napalm Death, Deadbodiesthroughout, Dropdead, Elephant Man, Ruido, Sayyadina and fucking thousands more. the Wojcech Stairway To Hell tour report, a review of Thrash Fest 4, columns from many a grind hc crust enthusiast, reviews (of course!), ads (double of course) and a lot of other shit. I assume this is xeroxed but the quality is so good, you'd be forgiven if you thought it was offset. [PO Box 46, 21500 Biala Podl., POLAND : karol@selfmadegod]

VIOLENCE #5 (gilet) : Don't think this needs further introduction yes? Interviews Crucial Unit, DFA, Kiss The Cynic, Agoraphobic Nosebleed, Head Hits Concrete, Benumb, Leng Tch'e, Wojcech and like a billion other maniacs. One question from the Wojcech interview bothered me. I'll just quote a bit "do you share my opinion that 80% of Malaysian/Philippines people are rip off bastards?". Now I don't know which pissed me off more, the supposed prejudice of the interviewer or the rip off assholes from the region who are a DISGRACE to the underground. We have enough enemies to sing about but when we cheat each other, I just cant accept it. The band in question, fortunately, corrected that misconception. Anyway, the Cripple Bastards US tour was a great read as well, amongst plenty of other shit, apart from the earlier hiccup, still one of my favourites out there. [PO Box 46, 21500 Biala Podl., POLAND : karol@selfmadegod]

WAR OF WORDS #1 : A refreshing new entry in the Malaysian DIY hc punk circles. A very primitive cut and paste layout which looks boring but has reasonably good content. Writings on why work sucks, food, anarchy (in its subjective context), a lifted survey on marijuana and a piece on pornography/erotica, interviews with DRSA/ROBIN Distro, Rai Ko Ris, and some reviews. I like how some interesting quotes appear on random pages throughout the zine. [Mohd Fadzil Mat Nor, B2 Gerai Mdl, Bandar Bahru, 27200, Kuala Lipis, Pahang, MALAYSIA : spinningbrain@hotmail.com]

WAR OF WORDS #2 : 2nd issue of this very promising zine. Cover has quotes of its interviewees (Oscar In The Middle zine, Nyi Blorong and Avail Records, all from Malaysia and all who offer interesting insights), a DIY guide to pest control (useful!), quotes and articles taken from the web (a manifesto of the war in Iraq by Larm, and lesser-known facts on the EMI corporation) amongst others. Its thin but to the point and I await earnestly for its future installments. [Mohd Fadzil Mat Nor, B2 Gerai Mdl, Bandar Bahru, 27200, Kuala Lipis, Pahang, MALAYSIA : spinningbrain@hotmail.com]

WE'RE GONNA FIGHT #5 : My kind of zine. DIY as fuck cut and paste international grind hc punk crust ska politics ideas and xeroxed. Reminds me a lot of the old International Straight Edge Bulletin. A myriad of perspectives and ideas in and around DIY bc punk, from a critique of the fashion aspects of skinhead culture, the editor's life and opinions on his travels, reports from Poland, France, Indonesia, Croatia and Colombia, interviews with New Winds, Alerta Guerilla, Second Age, Regres, No Time To Lose, See You In Hell, Straight Edge and Pierre Boislevie (of Empowerment, El Trago and Aside). Also sheds light on a lot of the 'unconventional' areas of punks (eg: Alerta Guerilla has got many straightedge political skinheads, not very common eh?). I will put a fullstop of this review here because if you are interested enough to find out more, you should get off your lazy ass and do so. [WGF, 8 ccs Gambettu, 69007 Lyon, FRANCE : w.g.f@free.fr]

WE'RE GONNA FIGHT #6 : I have no idea why Seb blocked out his postal address in this issue but whatever. Crazy French dude. Has a multi-nation letters section, write ups on the editor's punkrock holidays and very honest views about bc punk and social problems. I don't get tired of reading them because every sincere editor out there has different opinions regardless of whether he/she is nice or a total asshole. Very engaging, jam packed with a lot of info and different aspects of bc punk, a generous emphasis on the lesser known scenes in South East Asia, South America and East Europe. Some writings questioning religion and the apparent misconstrued perceptions of straightedge by the veteran anarcho punk band Conflict. Interviews with Crashed Out, The Rancidos, Ya Basta, FxPxOx, The Community Coalition Collective and reports from Philippines, France, Mexico, Peru and more. Viva la autonomia, hidup mati straight edge anarcho hardcore punk! [xwgf@yahoo.fr]

XEROTIKA #19 : this zine looks good, has an interview with Rai Ko Ris but fuck I just cant fucking read it. Firstly its all in Russian. I decided to put it here anyway because English isnt the only language in the world and maybe someone who can understand Russian could maybe get in touch with them. I enjoyed the artwork, though they seem like the work of kindergarten kids they have a morbid tinge about them. [xerotika@bk.ru]

(Split zines)

AUSTERE #5 / FREE VOICE #3 : One of those split basic hc punk zines, which isnt necessarily a boring thing. Austere adopts an almost-narrative approach to itself, beginning with an introduction of the zine and how the project came about, and discusses the recent mandate of compulsory National Service for Malaysian youths. It then goes on to



(ARSON ZINE; COMMUNIQUE 0.5)

We have always known what it will take to truly change this world: LOVE. But we've been singing songs and holding vigils for decades, and our enemies have happily ignored us - somehow it seems our moral high-ground is of little use against a culture of murderers and thieves. Perhaps then, our love must take a different form. Perhaps we must love the Earth and our desire for freedom as we love our children, parents, friends, lovers...

UNCONDITIONALLY. FIERCELY. Perhaps we must respond to the patriarchal conditioning that damages us all and the near-annihilation of our land base as we would respond to the attempted rape and murder of a loved one... **QUICKLY. DECISIVELY.** Perhaps love will finally conquer all when we truly let it guide our every action.

THE PEOPLE WHO PROFIT FROM OUR PAIN HAVE NAMES AND ADDRESSES. THE INSTITUTIONS THAT HOLD THIS CULTURE OF DEATH IN PLACE HAVE BUILDINGS IN EVERY CITY, EVERY TOWN.

IN AN UPSIDE*DOWN WORLD OF DEATH AND SLAVERY, FIGHTING IT ALL TO THE LAST BREATH IS THE ONLY WAY TO LIVE AND BE FREE. THE ONLY TRUE CREATION IS THE DESTRUCTION OF THAT WHICH DESTROYS. BETTER TO DIE DEFENDING WHAT AND WHO YOU LOVE THAN LIVE WITH HAVING STOOD BY AND LET THE WORST HAPPEN. BETTER TO BE ASHES FOR ETERNITY THAN A SLAVE FOR ONE MORE FUCKING SECOND.



HUMAN ERROR

ahead to nowhere

crusty hardcore grind from Hungary. this ep contain 8 songs, taken from split with LYCANTHROPY. re-released and distributed by Kolektif Rekord.

Price : Rp. 10.000 / 14.000 (ppd)
US\$ 4 (sale) / US\$ 5 (world)
TRADE ARE WELCOME... BUT WRITE FIRST

KOLEKTIF REKORD
c/o. Ricky Havo
Jl. Raya Lanteng Agung
Gg. Madrasah No. 31 E Rt 05/01
Jakarta Selatan 12810, Indonesia
caution@plaza.com

OUT NOW

on Cassette & Cd
VIA. SATU GURU SATU ILMU LAIN JURUS
split. ep



000 CHEERS! 000
MY NAME IS DOMINIK I AM A
SMALL D.I.Y. KID FROM GERMANY.
A FRIEND AND I RUN A SMALL DISTRO
AND HAVE ALREADY A PAIR TAPES
PUBLISHED. MY NEXT PROJECT WILL
BE A TAPE CALLED "VIVA VEGAN".
IT WILL BE DIY AND UNCOMMERCIAL
I LOOK FOR BANDS WHO SUPPORT
ANIMAL RIGHTS OR PREFER VEGAN
LIFE. I PREFER CRUST, PUNK, HARD,
GRIND, NOISE CORE - NO METAL!
SUPPORT ME! ANNOUNCES YOU
TO MY ADDRESS, SEND TAPES!
DOMINIK ELIXMANN MARTINIS59

45078 OSMA BRUCK GERMANY

Dead Chretiens

interview

DEAD CHRETIENS are a bunch of screwed up sick bastards who look like they make doughnuts for a living, and play raw distorted punk hardcore. They sent me a tape which sounded crap but had an underlying edge to it which I liked. They begged me for an interview and after many bribes I relented. Interview answered by Othmer and Mr Raff (MR). WARNING: They bite and gnaw!

- 1) you fucking bastards can't even spell Christians. didn't you go to school?
Othmer- Christians, I don't remember spelling that? School sucks! I wouldn't talk your grammar sucks, after I spell checked it all!
MR- I have no idea what you are talking about. If it's regarding a press issue, I would direct it to Crotch.
- 2) i fucking bet you asked for an interview to get back at some bastards whom you're dying to scold.
so do your thing.
Othmer- Yeah, I ask to do this interview cause we wanna show everybody we know that we did a stupid interview in some stupid country for some stupid zine. That should earn us some creditability.
MR- I just think that its cool that people do zines so bands like ours can have a place to be heard. So now people who read this know we existed, and played music and got drunk.
- 3) spunkzine@yahoo.com? what do you think that was funny?! i almost thought you were a boy band!
you know, spiky hair, nice "rugged" clothes, white and handsome (or ugly fucks trying to be). what's your allbi?
Othmer- Well Spunkzine is a zine I used to do back in the day before you probably even heard your first Blink 182 song. So I signed up at yahoo, cause hotmail kicked me off, fuckers! So I guess I ended up with spunkzine@yahoo.com sorry! And what if we are some boy band! We are really good friends with Sum 41, and Simple Plan, they are rich and go to the Playboy Mansion to play gigs, when was the last time your shitty band got asked to play a playboy show? Oh yah I don't even think your lama country even lets you have Playboy does it? That sucks losers....
MR- What would an email adress have anything to do with the style of music a band played? Fuck, fly us over, put us up in a hotel, get us a show, and wa will show you a sweet choreographed routine of a canadian boy band.
- 4) Othmer, you from Turkey? and which planets are the rest from? I think Ron's from Pluto. his drums sound like he used to be from Plutocracy. and that Mr. Raff guy. who does he think he is? a married rich fuck? who lives in a 3 storey mansion? come on! Richy C must be living with a wealthy uncle. so where's my money? we signed a deal. its \$500.28 for this interview. check or money order please.
Othmer- Turkey! No Im from Canada stupid! We are all from Canada. If you heard our new album "WEATAX" you can clearly see we have no money! We are poor fucks too stupid to go on welfare so we work our shitty minimum waga jobs, just so we can pay the bills, and maybe get a box of beer. So what, we are ugly and have bad recording. Do you wanna pay for us to have a nice clear sounding recording, so maybe all the kiddies in your lame scene will like us? Didn't think so, next question!
MR- My three storey mansion? Shit, you did your research, not too many people know about my place in the mountains. I don't know about the rest of the question, but as far as the money goes, bend over and I'll show where I'll put it.
- 5) you bastards deserve to...uh...die! so why aren't you dead?
Othmer- That would make you too happy if we were dead! That's why we are a band to piss people off, hahahhah!!
MR- I agree, we never did hava fans, just enemies, looks like we're getting a few more too....

DEAD CHRETIENS

The SHOOTING Part 1 : A storybook zine prepared by the editors of Trippers and Puntk zines. Presented in the ageless cut and paste style, with one editor coming up with a storyline and another with imagery. Pretty much a novel idea. Now the problem is that I already have a very short attention span. With a novel-type narration, I never got past the 3rd page. No disrespect but if it helps, I never finished reading 1984 though I got it 5 years back and never made it past the 2nd chapter of Schindler's List when I got it wayyy back when I was 12. Adding to that, the fact that this zine, though pretty much written by locals, is set in a very Americanized context and scenario (with names of characters like Renton?) is a turn off for me. I would credit the effort (though not the subject matter) but I think I won't be able to give this a fair review...yet. Apologies and no disrespect to the editors once again. If you feel this is a zine for you, write to [Shasha Pinkie, PO Box 18875, New Brighton 8007, Christchurch, NEW ZEALAND]

SMELLING TREES #1 (newsprint) : OK a personal zine. I have, of course, no problem with personal zines. They are good and offer an insight to someone else's world. They create a bridge yet is far from intrusive. However, reviewing them is another story. A justified review would take a page and I don't have the capacity to practice that, even more so when this reached me just a day before I began the review section. Written by a girl Sun Noon, this zine is segmented into 3 parts, to frame up different moods. 2 of fantasy and 1 of semi-fantasy (rants and such). I like the presentation (short, yet detailed) and look of this zine, as well as the photos. Even her introduction and endnote seem to blend in with her beautiful handwriting. A window to someone's thoughts, anyone? [2133 HWY 17, Suite 14-239, Suwanee, GA 30024, USA : sun_noon@smellingtrees.com]

SURE #2 : A personal type zine. Poems, short stories and journal entries adorn the pages, though if you are able to read between the lines you might be able to make out some social criticism. Reviews of other zines are scattered randomly in between pages. One of the writers for this zine also does Huhl zine; one of similar style to this. [503 Semarak 10, Tim Panchor Jaya, 70400 Seremban, Negeri Sembilan, MALAYSIA : www.dear.to/sure : scatterheart@yahoo.com]

THIS IS PHOD #3 : PHOD stands for Predestine Hour Of Death whatever that means. I don't know if this is related to the Predestine zine (reviewed here as well), but it very well could be since its written by the same person. DIY crust he punk mayhem. Done mostly in Bahasa Indonesia this begins with interviews with Atret, Amalise (in English), the editors of Rebelliousickness and Homiside zines, Bittersound Recs and Distro and Vitamin X (in English). Biographies (which I think are a common feature in Indonesian zines) are in abundance from Domestik Doktrin to Copykill to Mortal Kombat, scene report from Kelantan, articles on hardcore punk scene related stuff with a dash of politics and the usual ads and reviews. [Ari Wibowo aka Bowkore, Jl. Pitara Rt 05 Rw 14 No 49, Depok 16436, INDONESIA : terburkaku@hotmail.com]

THOUGHT BOMBS #22 : This zine has been missing from the review pages of ZEROX for the past couple of issues, and when I got this in the mail I was stumped that this has surpassed 22 issues since my last read! Thought Bombs is back (for me at least) in the same vehement style as it has been since its inception. Readers of Thought Bombs would have already expected the usual diatribe; lifted and original writings of political happenings, racism, sexism and other vices of society. No change here. Fresh updates on the socio-political scene in Chicago, from the supposed police-spying of activist groups, to various statements and lampoons regarding votes, the current prison-capitalist complex, newspaper clippings and personal insights. This issue made colourful by the vast contributors by artists taking a stab at the world today. [South Chicago ABC Zine Distro, PO Box 721 Homewood IL 60430, USA : anthonyrayson@hotmail.com]

THOUGHT BOMBS #23 : I got this flame of a zine a few days before I began on the review section. Done in vintage TB style of cut and paste layouts, lifted clippings and archived passages this issue addresses a recent Prison Abolition Conference and the after-occurrences of it. A contemporary look at anarchism and a 'revisionist' (now that's a new term) view of coherent anarchism (in this case the whole Haymarket hoo has and the early Chicago anarchists) and everything related to the 'struggle' as we know it. Also plenty of pen-down statements of the editor's speeches and addresses, plagiarized images, a word-interlude of the idea of Mental Illness and much more. This is complex, provoking and an absolute mindfuck. If you're keen to further explore elements of the sick diplomatic sides of American society this is for you.

TURBINE Magazine #1 (offset print) : Only the first issue and its offset printed. This magazine is either very organized with money or is very rich. It is presented by the Roofless Room Production entity which makes me ponder even more. From the front it looks like one of those apocalyptic doomed punk he zines. I flipped curiously and realized that almost the entire zine is in Bahasa Indonesia adding to that, the first few pages of this zine which greeted me screamed Metal. A history of Norwegian black metal. Then it jumps to an article of how punk has contributed to the world. by then I was getting the gist of it; that this magazine was a general underground culture magazine, something I've not read in a long while. Interviews Pulse Schlag, Abhorred Despiser, The Index, Revolution Magazine (in English) and Haemorrhage. Writups on the electro/power electronics scene, war, racialism, and more.

ONESEVENTWO #7 : a bit of drama prior to this being released with #7 actually being a re-issued version of the actual edition, with the latter supposedly stolen from a Malaysian contact (possibly it wing). Rip offs and cheats in DIY he punk. Now that's pretty fucked up. So the editors got back to the drawing board and came up with what is now the official OST #7. Has engaging interviews with Arise zine, Lost Sight, Secret 7 and Unconform. Scene reports from Australia (Brisbane), Denmark, Terengganu (Malaysia) and South Africa. Some icky poetry and reviews of music and zines. Includes a great sampler CD featuring bands from the world over including Infect, Secret 7, Complete, Death Penalty, Overwhelm and more. all bands within the diy he punk spectrum of course. [Oneseventwo, SPC PO Box 314, Singapore 914011, SINGAPORE : Oneseventwo@mye.com]

OVER THE LINE #1 : The debut issue of this old school hardcore worshipping zine. A pretty desirable printing quality which looks better than photocopied but too shoddy to be offset. The perfect hardcore paper print. © Writings which talk, analyze and criticize various aspects of political he punk and straightedge and some bios and ads. A little too much of the 88 youthcore style imagery for me (that after a while everything looks the same) but overall a great debut. Band biographies, Iceland he scene report, introduction to the zine's label Kids Like Me Records, interviews with Pointing Finger, Hold X True, Divide and Reconcile and of course reviews. [c/o Reed, No. 57 Jalan 21, Taman Desa Serdang, 43300 Seri Kembangan, Selangor, MALAYSIA : kidslikeme_88@hotmail.com]

PRACTICE SUBVERSIVE #12 : Written entirely in Bahasa Malaysia, this newsletter updates the hardcore punk circles in Penang, introduces various activities, collectives and illustrates everything with a review section. A bit predictable though but it could potentially open doors for the uninitiated. [19-D Jalan Rangoon, 10030 Georgetown, Penang, MALAYSIA : practice_subversive@yahoo.com]

PREDESTINATION #5 : Written in Bahasa Indonesia, this is your classic straight up DIY he punk grindcore zine. Engaging interviews with Xmanusia BuatanX and Domestik Doktrin, bios of Bob Barker Youth, Taste Of Flesh and Fast Game and a Klang Valley scene report write up done in English. For info's sake this is done by the guy from TERIAK RECORDS. [Ari Wibowo aka Bowkore, Jl. Pitara Rt 05 Rw 14 No 49, Depok 16436, INDONESIA : terbjurkaku@hotmail.com]

PUINK! #3 : I was at a friend's place flipping through this and convinced him to lend this to me. Firstly I must say that this comes with a so-called "soundtrack" on a CD with some theme bands which I never bothered to borrow. Secondly, for the uninitiated this is originally based in Singapore, but 'opened' a branch in New Zealand after one of the editor's moved there. Thirdly, **WHEN THE FUCK DID #2 COME OUT BECAUSE I DO NOT HAVE IT.** Anyway, this is a stark improvement from my last Puint! read. Yes it retains the whole feminist outlook but the editors involved do not bash straight into the cliché feminist rhetoric but instead carefully articulate around it. Not afraid to spit in the face of taboo, not afraid to question and reassess the norm. A boring interview with Maggie Vail and a very introspective, interesting and insightful 'conference' interview with local 'grr!' scenesters (Ginette Astreal, Kyn My Precious, Bna Dignity, Trent Trippers and the Bloody Rejects) over various issues pertaining to riot-grr! past and present. Finally, feminists who rubbish the cosmetics industry. I have always believed cosmetics, make up, 'slimming down' and all that superficial beauty shit contradict feminism and then get hammered for having those opinions. Would be interesting to see what happens now that a girl actually talks about it. *(Isnt it strange to begin with? Me, a heterosexual male saying fuck you to the cosmetics industry and then having females condemn me for that? no wonder we're doomed)* also has book and music reviews and other itay bitsy pieces. A must read for those with socially-constructed gender role views still ingrained in their heads. [Shasha Pinkit, PO Box 18875, New Brighton 8007, Christchurch, NEW ZEALAND or Shashidah K Tai, SPC PO Box 314, Singapore 914011, SINGAPORE : puinkilla@hotmail.com : puinkilla.gjb.net]

RESISTANCE: #1 : a hardcore zine from Hungary. Nothing ground breaking but a fairly decent debut. Interviews with Earth! Crisis, Highscore, Vitamin X, Unison, Bane, 97A. Listings, reviews and some ads. [Wltnr Laszlo & Wltnr Gabor, Hattyu tér 4., 3200-Gyongyos, HUNGARY : xresistance@freemail.hu]

SETARAMATA #1 : A jargon of personal and factual writings from a female perspective. Unfortunately almost entirely in Indonesian which doesn't quite cut it for idiots like me. Seemingly done in a way where readers in and out of the punk scope can relate to. Writings on the what and hows of zines, he punk closeness, a tribute to Anne Mary Frank and countless scores of personal opinions. Nice poems and imagery in a cut and paste mish-mash. No address listed but try [viciousvagina@yahoo.com]

SHIT POP #3 (offset print) : a half Japanese, half English, cut and paste punk rock and roll zine from Japan, though the zine is not actually based there. The intro reads "welcome to shitpop 3 our final issue in Japan". Where next? I wonder too. Some really good illustrations on mean people, a random questionnaire, poetry, guest contributions, some Women's Day event info, DIY birth control, discussion-communicates on the independent media circle, random imagery, lampooning of pop culture, and a lot of messy-but-in-a-good-way stuff. the editors would have moved out of Japan by the time you read this so email [kindlady76@hotmail.com]

No Songs Fuck Off

OTHER

6) **why the fuck did you guys form and why the fuck did you guys put out a live tape instead of nice glossy expensive cds just like everyone else? don't you know it's punk to be clean now?**
Othmer- Fuck you man! If that's what punk is then punk is dead! Hey we are the real deal, if you want real DIY punk from Canada listen to us, if you want everything else out their that all sounds the same, might as well just download it then. Our shit is anti-download. The sad thing is some sorry fuck will put in on Kazza then we will have to pull a Metallica on those fuckers! Nobody is original anymore they all want their band to sound the same, they all look the same its fucking sad! Us on the other hand! We don't give a flying fuck! Yah we will play your show, but watch out! Our sure if you wanna record us for free go ahead try and make money off our crap! **WE DON'T GIVE A FUCK!** We just play cause its fun! Once its not fun we quit!
MR - We formed out of frustration and anger and boredom. There is so much stupidity that surrounds us, its all bullshit. There are lots of things that piss us off. We played shitty songs in a shitty town in a shitty basement and recorded it on a shitty tape deck. If we had money, we still wouldn't have spent it on making a good recording. We just like to rock. Fuck.

7) **give me 3 reasons why you're not up with your american neighbors killing Iraqis.**
Othmer- 1) Medcows is from our country! 2) We don't kill people in Canada in the US its cool, I guess! 3) We are not fat greedy fucks.
MR - 1. We have a shitty army 2. Can't we just be friends? 3. We have no army

8) **which sounds like a good name for a techno scum-grindcore band?**
a) Ganesh s/o Arumugam b) Ching Xela Mei c) Abu Babu bin Labu Labi
Othmer- How about, shut your fucking cake whole asshole!!!
MR - c

9) **so how does a band go from being Northern Ontario punk legends to Northern Ontario's most hated band? tell me or I'll kiss you.**
Othmer- That's the reason why! If you ever kiss me I will knock you out soo fucking fast, you wont know what hit you!! Anyhow, this shitty emo band in our scene that everybody liked! Used to kiss each other all the time, and shaved their balls and shit. I didn't think that was cool. We didn't like'em cause they sucked, and thought they were rock stars! So they found out that I was dising them, so the whole scene in North Bay pulled a hate on for us!! Hated in North Bay! Well we all moved out of that shitty town, and that shitty band broke up now, so I guess we are the legends again! That's the story on that twist!
MR - Where did you read that? If that another press issue? I'll have to direct you to our manager Crotch again.

10) **I am straightedge. what's the charge? please don't tell me its 6 months in a cell with Mariah Carey and no, not Celine Dion tool please! if however, you decided on Mandy Moore can you extend the sentence to 6 years instead? we could make babies and stuff you know.**
Othmer- Ohh straightedge, that explains the lame-ass questions! I just finished smoking a wake and bake! if straightedge is what you do its what you do. I don't care, I think its a good thing for people.
MR - If you're straight edge thats fine. Why would you assume we hate you? Don't think that means I like you though.

11) **you Canadians like hockey? fuck hockey! soccer rules! I'll take you on! the 4 of you use them hockey sticks and I'll get 3 more guys on my team. we'll use our legs. all of us will wear combat boots and pink boxers. and the ball's a coconut. deal?**
Othmer- Like I said, lame-ass questions!
MR - I like soccer too. I used to play it. And, I'll kick your teams ass in a game with a team I assemble. like I said, just fly us over and put us up in a hotel. I'll bring the coconut!

12) **tell me more about the scheming nature of the Canadian guh-ver-munt. government government make more songs about wayward governments you useless drunk punks!**
Othmer- Well they pretty much just give you enough money to get by, its really hard to make money in this country, and its even harder to get an education if you don't have rich parents, your fucked! Or a native, they get free school, so they can party for like 6 years and never get a diploma, when everybody else is paying out the ass to get a crappy diploma! So that's the problem! I think the government should pay to keep me drunk, so all I do is work and watch hockey. Oh wait that's what I do now.
MR - And what the fuck are you doing to make the world a better place? Fuck off. We drink. I drink, so what? That doesn't make me useless. I know what the fuck goes on, and how I interact with those things. We will complain about whatever we want to complain about. Asshole.

13) what don't you punkrock posterboys come over and fuck shit up. I don't have the guts to scold a fair number of punkrock boys. Im a coward. can you help me out? I'll pay for lunch.
Othmer- We will fuck any mothaafukka that gets in our way assholes! Your country has too many people in it! I hate people! You bunch of commie bastards...
MR - I don't fight people. I haven't been in that many fights. Also, I wouldn't want to help you get into a fight. Why do you want to fight so many people? Maybe you should take a bong hit and relax. Or try focusing that energy more productively....

14) If I say thank you do I get a free Dead Chretiens shirt? why the fuck does it look like a Dead Kennedy's symbol.
Othmer- Are you sure you are straight edge, cause it sounds like you have been taking some fucked up drugs! If you cant figure out why we have the same logo as the Dead Kennedys then that's your problem!
MR - we took it upon ourselves to rip it off. you get no free shirt.

15) (+65-26393881), whose number is this?

Othmer- Your mommys I called her last night bitch!
MR - I have no idea, I have never seen a number like that before, I'm going to have to go with Othmer on this.

16) vinyl! no? yes? can I have some please?

Othmer- Fuck off!
MR - we are to poor to have Vinyl. Didn't you hear how shitty the recording was? And its on tape, If thats any indication of our equipment quality.

17) do you know what KANINA BEH CHEEBAI LU BESAR PEH ANAK SUNDAL means?

Othmer-It means fuck off and die you Canadian scum fucks!
MR - No. Will you tell me please? (act well, its along the lines of YOU'RE A FUCKED UP DAMNED CUNT OBNOXIOUS BASTARD CHILD. I think).

18) ok goodbye bastards. are you happy now that you've been interviewed by punkrock's new Asian nude calendar posterboy? you lame bastards have no website so list down your fucking address.

Othmer- Actually, hopefully by the time you get this we will have www.deadchretiens.com up and running, but if you wanna get some info on us e-mail me here spunkzine@yahoo.com remember! Buy our shitty merch cause we wanna get drunk, and watch hockey!
MR - And fly us over for a tour, and some studio time!

Spunk Productions /
Dead Chretiens
PO Box 102
Cobalt Ontario
POJ 1C0
CANADA
spunkzine@yahoo.com

Mr. Raff

Ron
Hextall

Richy C.

Dead Chretiens

WEATAX

EMBRACE #10 : My all time favourite zine from Malaysia. Let's first go on a trip down memory lane. I remember being interviewed in Embrace #1 (and I returned the favour in Zerox #5) and for a few years me and Saha corresponded religiously through snail mail, and occasionally I would call him up and say hello. Then when email started being a part of our lives and National Service consuming mine, we lost touch. Fast forward to 2003. I was on tour with Steve Towson in Johor Bahru when we met in person for the first time. Felt really good to see him then. I passed him Zerox #9 and he gave me this, and it is flat out one of the better zines I have read ever. Simple and to the point, no bullshit no cheesy slogans just some great conversations with Yage, Analena, Against Mel, Ester Drang, Jr Ewing, I Adapt, 1905, Pointing Finger, Seven Days Of Samsara and depressive rants on his views on the world at large. No reviews but nonetheless this is complemented also by a tour report of Crossing Point and a feature titled "A Reflection On Ethics." Get this. [Saha, 4A Lrg 6, Kg Baru, 86000 Kluang, Johor, MALAYSIA : embracezine@yahoo.com]

EMPATHICA #4 : Front cover is a morbid drawing of a skull angel impaling a demon. Themed "Assault Your Senses" this thin zine does justify its intention. Written in Bahasa Indonesia, unfortunately for a monolingual fool like me. The editor outlines the issue of how we are endlessly enchained to a doctrine in the first few pages before skipping to random subjects like respect and DIY shirt printing. A dark melancholy defines this zine, with depressed, almost persuasive pleas for freedom and such. As of this issue, the PO Box of this zine is temporarily inaccessible so reach this zine at empathic68@yahoo.com

EMPATHY LIES FAR BEYOND #2 : An indepth, socially critical political/personal zine from Indonesia, which might probably have made my top 10 if I could smoothly understand all that is written. The content is in heavy Bahasa Indonesia and while I struggled to comprehend what is being written, I had a fair grasp of what this zine discusses. Argumentative writings on Globalization and its social consequences, banking, feminism (and other related issues regarding the social standing of females in general) the end of the world (as we know it), technology and so forth. Also interviews Misery Index (answered in English, but boring), Rebellious Sickness zine and The Guitties and ads/listings of bc punk grind bands and groups. I really am at a loss for not being able to read this due to my linguistic handicap, but I strongly recommend those with a fluent understanding of Bahasa Indonesia or Malaysia to check this one out. empathy_lies@hotmail.com : PO Box 7735, JKS, LA Jakarta 12077, INDONESIA]

KEPLANKI : this has no indication at all if it's a first, second or third or whatever issue but I must say that this impressed me. Apparently two friends got bored during school vacation and decided to do an art zine. Nothing to do with hardcore punk, but the DIY spirit of this project embarrassingly eclipses a lot of the fake DIY idiots of the 'punk scene'! Dissected comics with brainless storylines, all with nothing to say except to exhibit an underlying dark humour. If these two bother to develop this, their work would definitely go far and maybe get the acknowledgement it deserves. [Fazli, 339 Kg Raja, 09200 Kupang, Kedah, MALAYSIA : angry_baboon77@hotmail.com]

xLAPUKr #1 : cut and paste zincore. Debut issue, I got it handed over to me when it was still fresh from the copiers when I was on tour in Bandung. Discusses basic topics, but from a meticulous standpoint. Interviews with xManusia Buatanx and Inmargarden zine, profiles of Steve Towson, Benny Compo, Free Soul and Rotten Cheeseburger. Also a review of the RAMBO South East Asian tour leg, straight edge as a form of anarchism, and punk chaos. And yes, the 'mandatory' reviews as well. Written in Bahasa Indonesia. [Deden, Jl Kapur, No 10 B, Bandung 40212, Jawa Barat, INDONESIA : crossededge@hotmail.com]

MARJINAL Komik - "Mahakebo" : An illustrated satirical take on the Indonesian educational and worker's system that meanders around the fallacies of failed capitalism. Fantastic drawings, and humorous scenarios depicted in Bahasa Indonesia. The end of the comic pits a farmer using a buffalo to plough his fields, likening it to how human beings are enslaved to the system. Genius. By the way this is a collective effort done by the band of the same name. tempequality@doityourself.com : PO Box 7735, JKS, LA Jakarta 12077, INDONESIA]

MARJINAL Komik - "Ignorance Love" : Another installment of the MARJINAL/TEMPEQUALITY coalition. Again, a comic with the subject being love. The storyline is an offbeat piss-take at love in general; as defined by our upbringing, by TV, by the state in which wars are waged, twisted love, boring love. This time however it is done in basic (and admittedly, screwed up) English and the dark humour seemingly increases tenfold in this one. Maybe it's the subject matter. Maybe its because I finally understand what's going on. I had a good laugh regardless. tempequality@doityourself.com : PO Box 7735, JKS, LA Jakarta 12077, INDONESIA]

NO IDOLS #2 : Oh, the nostalgia of holding a DIY CUT AND PASTE AS FUCK zine in my hands. Its exactly the kind of zine which inspired me to do ZEROX in the first place, a no holds barred no rules attitude layout-wise. I like the whole 'drunk punk' feel I get while flipping through this. Interviews Endless Blockades, Last Nerve, The Gate Crashers and Draft Dodger. A cool section called "Funny / Weird Song Names", Australian Thrash history and a French scene report. Cool back page of wrestlers whom I don't have a fucking clue about but all look like they could have played in Madball. © [27 Rutledge St., Coolangatta, QLD 4225, AUSTRALIA : circelcone_zine@hotmail.com]

The COALITION zine #1: the debut issue of a rather crucial zine from Malaysia. Based in Terengganu, it provides an important outlet for punkrock expressionism over that part of the country. The columns that fill the first few pages are commentary (some parts narrative, some argumentative) on the Malaysian cosmos, punk from an Asian perspective and other stories. An article about the police state entity which seemingly pollute the cities of Malaysia, a lifted piece called Reclaim The Streets which outlines the significance of performance as part of your 'revolution', a scene report from Indonesia and another from Russia, interviews with Second Combat, 18 Valencia and Jhai Alai. Ends with reviews of music, literature and selected zines. What is encouraging about this zine is that it deals with topics that are challenging to the status quo. While I more or less entirely agree with all that is written, I applaud the fact that is a zine with substance and honesty. [Fazri, B783 Banggol Limau, 21200 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu, MALAYSIA : drsa76@yahoo.com]

The COALITION zine #3: have no idea what the print-type this is, too good to be xeroxed yet not exactly in the league of offset. This is primarily in English though there are some Malay references scattered about. Captivating interviews with Woot Skam and the vocalist of Nostalgia. Also has one of those conference interviews with the bands featured on the Little Jerk punkrock compilation. In addition to that, columns, reviews and listings complete this issue. [Amran Wahab, 317 Kg Pagar Ubi, Tepoh, 21060 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu, MALAYSIA : coalitioners@yahoo.com]

DISPUTE OF CONCERN #2: The 2nd installment of this hc punk zine. It is part (almost half) in Malay and the other half in English, but it all makes an engaging read. Interviews with Dropdead, Opprobrium Adornment, MDC (who fucked the editor over by not responding to the interview questions and instead sent him an interview done by Under The Volcano. Apparently some zines are less important than others?), Nostalgia, Evil Existence, Carburetor Dung and Petrograd. All interviews go beyond the basic boring topics and are interactive, most of which I thoroughly enjoy, a discussion on feminism with some individuals from the punk circle, Indonesian scene report, a DS 13 biography, the perils of television and more, as well as reviews. One of my better reads as of late. [Shahril Azhar, Kg Seri Dalam 83210, Senggarang Batu Pahat, Johor, MALAYSIA : unspoken_perfectly@hotmail.com]

DISPUTE OF CONCERN #3: Funny zine name but arguably engaging content-wise. Having said that this zine would fare better if it works on its 'originality' sector. In English compared to the previous issue where it was half-Malay. A lifted interview with Tragedy (from Attack! Zine) and Scholastic Deth plus a huge write up on Betereore. Also listings of various hc punk bands, distros, labels and zines the world over. I enjoyed the critiques of the hc punk community in relation to its local context, and also an extensive scene report from Russia. Other than reviews, this issue is also accentuated with quotes from various individuals and groups all over. [Shahril Azhar, Kg Seri Dalam 83210, Senggarang Batu Pahat, Johor, MALAYSIA : unspoken_perfectly@hotmail.com]

D.I.Y. GUIDE #2 (newsprint): A CrimethINC guide to alternative living. Suggestions, ideas and tales on evading the grip of the capitalist juggernaut, tips on travelling, shoplifting, staging protests and cheap food, windows to dumpster diving, DIY abortion (yes!), record and book publishing and DIY home fixing, home tattooing and more. Note that this is a guide of ideas and not a fucking textbook so read with a working mind. And a working mind will be very important because this will depress and mindfuck most 'normal' people, because you will realize that the life you lead is NOTHING when you compare it with the various alternative lifestyle paths illustrated here. [CrimethINC, 2695 Rangewood Dr., Atlanta GA 30345, USA]

DRUNK ON GREEN TEA #1: Written by my buddy J.C. who is the brainchild of Moz, Manchester united and many other things. This is a zine which has no niche and no particular focus hence it making an interesting read. Random writings from anywhere by just about anyone regarding anything. An analysis and critique of the dimmer aspects of anarchism, chats with Thurston Moore, Noam Chomsky and Deepak Chopra. Writings which outline the racist hypocrisy of white mass media, punk, biphobia, more random writings and tips on home recording. Nice cartoons to boot. Comes with a soundtrack CD featuring acts like Boyracer, James Brand, Tent Pilot and Thee Moths, amongst many others, from folk to shit rock to electronica. A zine with random content that comes with an audio sampler of a plethora of music genres. Ask for his postal address at [www.maladjusted.net]

The ELECTRIC NEWS #1: yes another zine to enter the fray of modern DIY hc punk in Singapore! The Electric News is a really encouraging piece of work. Cut and paste effort that teeters between the mildly and the alarmingly political. Insights on the current state of things, a review of Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11, a review of the recent 'monumental' Lion City Hardcore Showcase gig on 9th August 2004 (though I think the review shouldn't even have been written because it just refers to one of the bands), and a folk punk showcase held a few days after. An in-depth interview with Steve Towson and crazy noisician IMBORED, some good writings and poem-like things, a Greek DIY scene report and some McSlander for you. I hope to see a second issue please. [No fucking postal address again. Argh. lady-e@theelectricityyouth.tk]

The Ororku x EDGE crew interview...

Crippled bastards? Not really. But fun loving punkrockers moshing about and having a healthy positive good time in Iceland? I got in touch with one of their members, Fannar who also does Bananathrash.tk and we got down to the hardcore business talk...

1) Hello Fannar and everyone! Who is the Ororku Edge and how did the name come about?

We are just a group of friends that all have one thing in common: we're cripples. Most of us listen to hardcore/punk/metal

2) The Ororku Edge crew is different from all the silly jock crews that litter the hardcore scene. I don't mean to be rude, but with the fact that most if not all of you are physically challenged, how did people react to the existence of the Ororku Edge?

Most people think the ororku edge crew is cool and we've had a very positive reaction. People in the scene think it's awesome that handicapped people are also active in the scene. It adds a certain diversity to the crowd I guess. It's kinda like when very very young kids start showing up at shows, it shows that all kinds of people can get into it so everyone gets pretty excited. But the reason we're different from the jock crews is that our crew is a joke. We call ourselves a crew cause we think it's funny. I'm a member of tons of crews and they're all just a group of friends that think it's funny to start a crew.



3) I've heard crazy stuff about you guys, moshing in wheelchairs, stage diving in crutches...fucking madness! Makes me wanna break a leg and join in the fun! How have other "normal" people reacted to that?

Haha, yeah I've heard that too, but that's pretty exaggerated. I think I'm the only one in the crew that actually moshes and I don't use a wheelchair or crutches or anything so... The rest usually dances in the back or headbangs or something. Although we did do a show a few weeks ago where we had a wheelchair moshpit. People doing a circle pit in wheelchairs, going fucking crazy! Everybody was crashing into each other and falling out of their wheelchairs. One guy even tried to stage dive. Awesome show.

4) There is obviously a strong camaraderie and a sense of unity amongst you people. I even heard rumours of a band within the crew! Wow, tell me more!

I don't if there's really a sense of unity amongst us but we do have bands. We have a sloppy, thrashy hardcore band called Blondage, which has released one demo but we have yet to even play a show. Then there's The Rollerblade Warriors which is a Discharge Influenced punk band and a grind band in the making called Conditional Lethal Mutation. Some of us have projects outside of the crew also.

5) Has there been much discrimination concerning the physical disabilities both in and out of the scene? Maybe you people can share a few experiences with the readers about all that.

No there's not much discrimination. Some people speak to us like little children but they just don't know any better. Other than that I don't remember anything.

6) Anti racism, sexism, homophobia have always been discussed in the scene but there are also other issues that people hardly touch, maybe it's not regarded as a "punk enough" topic. But out there, apart from physical disabilities, there is always discrimination over ex convicts, mentally challenged people, sexually active people (some people consider them perverts!?)....what do you think?

There are a bunch of topics that are always trendy and it's easier to just go along with the crowd and talk loudly about issues that you know everyone agrees with you on. Also issues like racism, sexism and

REVIEWS: though this is the last issue of ZEROX, remember that I have not quit writing yet. Send me zines, tapes, CDs, etc for review in PROHIBITED NEWSLETTER. Bands, zines in South East Asia especially please send in items for review. Trades and discounts are cool as well ☺
All items reviewed are in my opinion, so if you don't agree that's your problem.

< PAPER REVIEWS >

(Zines, periodicals, comics, fressheets and what not. All items xeroxed and in English unless otherwise stated)

AOTEAROA BLACK PRESS #4: A gift from my friend Oleg in Israel (hello bastard! ☺) when he was here on transit on a flight back home. A document on anarchist happenings around the world though I couldn't help but wonder why there isn't much of a focus on the immediate 'local' anarchist circle. Maybe they were justifying the slogan of No Boundaries. Lots of graphics and photos (in your face and abstract), a passage on anarcho syndicalism, the civil war in the Solomon Islands and the indirect involvement of the countries in its region, a piece on arrested anarchist youth Sherman Austin. [hipasfuhk@yahoo.co.nz]

A.WARENESS #1: I'll be very objective here. This is the debut issue of a zine initiated by a 15 year old kid. Very basic articles on his perceptions of the DIY underground. They seem very cliché but hey give him a break. It's a first issue! Definitely way more neater and more sensible than Zerox #1 (it was so bad I threw the master copy away. Hal), and I attribute any seemingly 'baseless nonsense' to be nothing more than youthful exuberance. Text from Rai Ko Ris and ExPxOx and interviews with Greenridge Primary School, Flames Of Dignity, Unvisual and One Inch Punch. Wonder how #2 will turn out like? [Mahammad Fadhil, Jurong West St 72, Blk 727, #07-194, Singapore 640727, SINGAPORE : my_1232002@hotmail.com]

AYER x MATA DARAH #1: Loosely translated, ayer mata darah is "Bloodtears". Pretty brutal sounding name. I assumed this would be a bc grind punk zine and I was right. Almost entirely in Malay, has a piece on the editor's thoughts on democracy, writings on Palestine, a feature in English called Chiang Mai Rock (self-explanatory yes?), some columns and contributed ideas/thoughts, culture, zine and music reviews, a Malaysian scene report (strange to have that in a Malaysian zine, then again the scene there is so vast and growing not everyone knows everyone anymore...), Italian scene report and all those informative bits on international diy bc crust punk that are integral of zines of this nature. [Hafiz, No. 29, Jln SS3/52, 47300 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, MALAYSIA : sadnesschild@hotmail.com]

BENZINE #7: Not sure which issue this is, or if this is one of those one-off things. Penned by a team of writers within the punk/indie scope, this is almost entirely in Bahasa Indonesia, though there is one article concerning your wants and needs in life penned in English. Argumentative writings about the underground and the alternative music scene, technological dependency, life after death and the sex/sexuality/sexism complex. Also includes some cartoons as well. [Gnaekelawarpress c/o Hendri Hendrawan, Jl. Swakarsa 1B no. 31, Rt 05 / 03 Pondok Kelapa Jakarta Timur 13450. INDONESIA : poserzine@yahoo.com]

BRENGSEK - More than a killing comic: Pencil-draft/marker-outline type comic from Bandung, Indonesia. Done by Alex of mad thrash rock and roll band Muntah this is made up of chapters of sick gore splatter shit! basically pages upon pages of murder, zombies, congenital haemorrhage, worms, maggots, shit, headless bodies and stuff. The ideal soundtrack to this, according to the writer, would contain Pungent Stench, Misfits, Slayer, Cannibal Corpse and more. comes with a CDr soundtrack of 4 experimental electronic (de)compositions by Private Death Party. Comic dialogue in Bahasa Indonesia.

CHICAGO ABC zine #2: This zine has many similarities with the scathing Thought Bombs zine from the USA (review below), largely due to the fact that it's put together by the same person. This issue revolves around a Prison Abolition Conference, addresses the hidden and lesser-known aspects of crime (of how the state is in fact the biggest criminals of all), both hypothetical and flat out slander of the current Bush administration, letters from prisoners and much more. some of the political essays could easily get A grades in any political school thesis. One of the zines that paint an absurdly bleak, but very much real, picture of America right now. [South Chicago ABC Zine Distro, PO Box 721 Homewood IL 60430, USA : anthonyrayson@hotmail.com]

CROOKED zine #1: I was so glad this zine came out (among others in the LCHC) because I was afraid no one else would carry the DIY zine torch after the demise of Zerox. Done up by the founder of LIONCITYDIY.com this zine not only rocks, but rocks 'correctly'. Finally a Singapore zine with a bit of intelligence and originality. Everything is formatted on Photoshop, which would give you anti-cut and paste posers some eye candy finally. Interviews Hukud, Vrykolakas, Dead By Six and My Precious, the editor's interest in anime, and his experience of being a victim of racism in the hardcore scene (this guy's an Indian, and not many punks here are Indian so...) a stolen piece on the History of Capitalism, anarchism/selective consumerism from a local perspective, reprinted flyers of animal rights group ACRES, anti McDonald's, cool lyrics of cool bands, and some really interesting insights. Overall a brilliant debut. Nice photo on the last page ☺ [didn't list address. Dumb ass. Email Seelan at fallen_world@hotmail.com or surf on in to www.LIONCITYDIY.com]



homophobia are often discussed in the media so a lot of other issues are forgotten although they may be no less important than racism or whatever.

7) So how is Iceland like? Education system, the workforce, public welfare? Did the state go against or support the USA in the Iraq war?
I think all in all Iceland does have a pretty good education system since it has not yet been privatised and public welfare seems to be good. Iceland's not perfect at all, but I think we have it pretty good. Although the politicians here are twats. They don't give a shit what the people think and go behind their back and make choices that are not theirs to make. I think we've only had a national vote for some political decision once in the history of Iceland (I'm not 100% sure though). They supported the USA in the war although the majority of the Icelandic people were completely against it. But they know that the people won't do shit. They'd rather not miss the next Friends episode than go out protesting.

8) How are shows in Iceland like? Pucking cold i suppose! Name me some good bands, labels, distros! Most of the shows here are awesome. There's most often a mix of metal and hardcore bands because the scene is too small for divisions. Although this seems to be changing because all of a sudden a handful of kids started a bunch of hardcore/punk bands. Around a year and a half ago there was one hardcore band in the whole scene, the rest was all metal or metalcore. The atmosphere is most often pretty awesome. Except maybe when the shows are held at bars and there are drunk assholes everywhere that don't even like hardcore. There are a lot of high quality bands here. I ADAPT is probably the oldest pure hardcore band in Iceland. They've still only been around for about 3 years or so. They play new-school melodic hardcore. Kinda like Stretch Arm Strong or something. HRYDJUVERK is my personal favourite local band. They play high speed pissed off d-beat driven fucking crust. Another awesome band I must mention is FIGHTING SHIT. They take the standard melodic youth crew hardcore formula and play it ultra fast so it sounds almost like grindcore. If thrashcore/power violence is your thing they are definitely worth checking out. Then there's a pretty new band called

HRYGJANDI SANNLEIKUR and they play threshy power violence which kinda reminds me of Stack or Hellnation. Then there's DYS which is an amazing old-school political crust-punk band. They sound like a mix between Discharge and Black flag or something. Of course there are tons of other bands too. I recommend checking out www.dordingull.com for more info on the bands here. I don't think we have any active labels here at the moment. Most bands release their records themselves or are released by some foreign label. We have a few distros. The biggest one is Gagnaugad which has all kinds of hardcore and punk. Then there's a zine/book distro called Andspyma and a few weeks ago a friend of mine starting distributing some quality punk, his distro is called Neridill. I run a very small distro called Banana Thrash (like my webzine). Then finally there's a new Metal distro called Gaddur. These are the only ones I know of. There may be some blackmetal distros or something I haven't heard of or forgot or something.

9) Has anyone been to Asia? Or would like to be in Asia?!

No I don't think anyone of us has. I've dreamed of going to Asia to explore both the culture and of course the hardcore scenes there. I have heard way too little asian hardcore except for maybe japanese stuff which a lot of my favourite bands are from.

10) Okay everyone, really nice talking to you. Let's keep the friendship going! Cheers and leave some contacts so that people can get in touch with you! Say whatever you want!
Thanks for the interview. If you want to get in touch with me you can e-mail me at lem@simnet.is and you can also check out my webzine Banana Thrash (www.bananathrash.tk). The ororku crew used to have a website but it kind of just got forgotten.

Unfortunately a gig that we had lined up for last Fri. fell through. It was at a Reclaim The Streets festival/protest, which is a protest against car culture and the never ending roads that are designed for cars, with all other alternative means of transport forgotten about. It basically involves a bunch of people getting together in a park, going for a walk and plonking down in the middle of the road and having a party. Naturally the police don't think too much of this, and so depending on how many people there are, try to shut it down pretty quickly. This one was pretty small, so there wasn't much resistance when the cops came and told us that bands were not gonna happen, and after about 2 hours deliberation, we ended up giving up on the idea.

Ah well, next time eh!! There was also a disco at the Pink Palace that nite, a benefit for forest activism in Tasmania, that apparently was a great nite, but I missed most of it as I was playing a show with Slaya as well. By the time I got back, I was in a completely different headspace to everyone here, so found it difficult to get into the swing of things, but still had a good (if excessively busy) nite. I can't think of a great deal more at the moment to tell you, too much catching up and other more boring stuff too mention. Just thought I'd drop you a line and say g'day and all that. So for now, take care, many many thanks for all your help and hospitality while in Asia, it was and is most appreciated. I look forward to repaying the favour!! And hopefully PissChrist will hit your shores sometime in the next year (VERY briefly spoken about as a possibility-fingers crossed!) Prepare for the attack!! All the best, peace and love, James

p.s checked out the Lion City website, it's looking good, pity the band page isn't up yet, I guess I need a little patience right?! Pushy bugge!! I was talking with a friend about doing a similar type of page for Oz punk today actually, but with more archival material as well, as there isn't too much info on the net about Oz punk, especially from the late 80ies onwards. Time will tell, I'm just going to be compiling info and photos etc., all the comp. stuff is his domain for now, at least until I improve my (non-existent) skills.

- James Hatfield -

HOSTILE REGRESSION RECORDS

Still available

IRRITATE: Everyday Evil CD (FIN Terrorist grindcore groove)
GRIND WAR FINLAND 4 way CD (FIN Irritate, Murder Company, Drunk Junkies, Enslavator - 85 minutes of killer quality finnish grindcore slaughter)
CAN CAN HEADS: Headcracking Lifestyle CD (FIN Free-wheeling agro spazz)
All CDs \$15 postpaid everywhere. Send well hidden cash (registration preferred). Get in touch for distribution and bulk trades. We also carry about 1000 different EXTREME underground grind/gore/black/death/hardcore/noise releases, check out the web page or send your address for a free catalog.
Hostile Regression, P.O. Box 37, 55801 Imatra, Finland, <http://go.to/irr>

MAD-CITY MAIL-ORDER

GISM "Live Tokyo 8/2/83 LP" unissued from \$12
CONFUSE "New God, Old God" LP 1st press \$12
DISCHARGE "The Ego" LP (Fanzine) Ltd 300 \$12
AGATHOCLES "Black Clouds Underneath" CD \$10
AGATHOCLES "Superhero Overdose" CD NEW \$10
AGATHOCLES "Razor Sharp Daggers" CD studio \$10
ULCERBROTHA "New and raw" CD LP New Grind \$10
WARCORE "No-Openess Wound" CD Discography \$9
DRILLER KILLER "Cold, Cheap, Discus" LP/CD \$10
DRILLER KILLER "Fuck the World" CD my first \$10
DRILLER KILLER "And the Winner Is" LP/CD \$10
DRILLER KILLER "VICTIMS" "split" 7" color v \$5
EAT MY FUK "We'll Smash Bitch" LP/CD \$10
DISCHARGE "Eaten by Society" LP/CD D-Best HC \$10
FORWARD "Forward To Death" CD new from HC \$12
YACOFSE / SANITY'S DAWN "split" LP/CD \$10
MALENGUANT TUMOUR "Dance of a new LP/CD \$10
RAJOTUS "Discography" CD 41 track that ruled \$9
SUPPRESSION "Discography" CD killer USA price \$10
WORMWOOD "Rampant" LP/CD Newcast \$10
DISFEAR "Everyday Struggle" LP/CD D-Best HC \$10
RIPTURE "Last and First" LP/CD \$10
C.F.D.L. "Live in Japan" LP Ltd 300, Japan Cited \$12
DEATHBROT "Consider It War" LP/CD \$10
COACON "Desecration" CD Mexico D-Best \$10
REV. HEADS OF STATE "American Der" LP/CD \$9
ULVER "Rational Madrigal" LP Newcast offering \$10
DISCUST "The Ego" LP/CD \$10
DISCORDIA "Discography" CD Proccaccin \$10
WITCHES HAMMER "Canadian Speed Metal" LP \$10
DEKAPITATOR "We Will Destroy" LP Black Metal \$10
ABIGAIL "Intercourse and Lust" LP Ltd 1000 \$10
PHOBIA / RESIST AND EXIST "split" LP \$10
KATASTROFALIA "Tuchelshaus 94-98" CD \$10
MISSERY "The Early Years" CD AS OOP/Rare \$10
MISSERY/EXTENSION OF MANKIND "split" CD \$9
TOKEN TANTIRUM (AFRAX) "split" LP \$10
NIEHLISTIC "split" LP orig LP reissued \$10
PEGGRO PUNK "Discography" DBL CD Italy HC \$15
PHOBIA "Horribly Through Pain" CD Imported \$15
REKURROR WAR "Concave System" LP PDX HC \$9
RIPTURE "Come On God" LP OOF, Classic HC \$9
SILFEST "Can We Love, Cry For" LP/CD \$10
SINERGIA "Dance of the Dead" CD \$10
STALAG 13 "In Control" CD Classic \$10
TEAR IT UP "Nothing To Nothing" CD \$10
VITAMIN X "See Your Face" CD \$10
WORMWOOD / ESOTERIC "split" LP \$10
TEEN CYCLOPS/WORMWOOD "split" LP \$10
ROT / 2 MINUTES DE GORE "split" LP \$10
NAILBITER "Abused" LP/CD D-Best / \$10
FEAR OF GOD "Discography" DBL LP \$10
FEAR OF GOD "Bene Blood" LP \$10
VOMIT THE SOUL "Human Humanity" MCD \$10
TRAGEDY / TOTALITAR "split" LP \$10
DISCLOSURE "No More Pain" LP/CD \$10
BATHYUS SHITTER "Lithium Shitter" LP Ltd 1000 \$5
TOTUS "Love, Love" LP/CD \$10
ULCERBROTHA / DYSMORPHIC "split" LP \$10
SEPTIC DEATH "Rings" LP/CD \$10
AGATHOCLES / ULCERBROTHA "split" LP \$10
AGATHOCLES / SVHL, IMURHA "split" LP \$10
AGATHOCLES / JAN AG "split" LP \$10

LIST ALTERNATIVES or CREDIT SLIP GIVEN
INSURANCE Add \$1.00 (not postpaid prob)
Catalog + \$6.00 = \$1.00 USA // 2 x IRC's World

MONKEY ORDERS or CASH to Amanda Robson

USA SHIPPING RATES:
Prices include media mail, no insurance
Priority Mail Add \$4.00
Delivery Confirmation \$0.50

WORLD SHIPPING RATES:
Can/Mex Add \$1.00 per item
Can/Mex AIR add \$3.00 per item, \$1 each add
World Surface Add \$2.00 per item, \$1 each add
World AIR add \$4.00 per item, \$1 each add
Can INSURE only Surface profits // No AIRMAIL

PAYPAL ORDERS - Credit Card
Add additional 5% of total including shipping
User ID - <http://firstbloodfamily.com>

MAD-CITY MAIL-ORDER

www.firstbloodfamily.com

Note new address!

FIRST BLOOD FAMILY
PO Box 11004
Portland OR 97211
USA

DIY FOR LIFE



NEW IN OCTOBER / NOV

BLACK MARKET FETUS / DISCHARGE
(Lower Grind Vs Wisconsin D-BEATHC)
(17 track CD includes debut 7" and unreleased track)

NAILED DOWN "Resurrection", 3x7" / CD
(16 new but angry Violent HC track!)

DISCHARGE "Delinking To Forget" 7"
(Very few left, then Out Of Print!)
BATHYUS SHITTER "Perdition" 7"
(Cooler than You Japan Grind-Core)
MACHETAZO "The Magnet Sound" 7"
(1" 7" full band, Brutal Spill Grind!)
WARCOLLASE "Crap, Scrap" 7"
(covers by DISCHARGE, AMERICA, ANTISECT)

OUT IN NOV / DEC:
COFFETAR "Debut" 12" / CD
WARCOLLASE "Stages" CD
COACON "split" CD

SHIRTS (black and white S,M,L,XL,XLXL)
DISCHARGE "Delinking To Forget" Cover
BATHYUS SHITTER "Perdition" Cover
MACHETAZO "The Magnet Sound" Cover
WARCOLLASE "Crap, Scrap" Cover
RIPTURE "Lithium Shitter" Cover
BLACK MARKET FETUS "split" 7" cover
PATH OF DESTRUCTION "Frenzied" 7" cover
NAILED DOWN "Resurrection" cover
COFFETAR "Cap Eating Monster"
* Also Available as Black Hoodie Sweatshirts
* All our dtd added, high quality, SIZES (S,M,L,XL)

LTD EDITION records are WHITE vinyl, hand #d,
SHIRTS: Screen Black Dotted covers + Original Cover.
Ltd 50 or 100 & come with Patches too!

CATALOG + FREE Logo Sticker \$1.00

PRICES: USA // CAN/MEX // WORLD
7" EP / LTD \$4 / \$5 \$5 / \$6 \$7 / \$8
LP / LTD \$9 / \$15 \$12 / \$17 \$15 / \$20
MCD / CD \$7 / \$9 \$8 / \$10 \$10 / \$12
SHIRT \$10.00 \$12.00 \$15.00
HOODIE \$25.00 \$30.00 \$35.00
* MLP or 3x7" is SAME PRICE as LP or LTD LP

CASH or MONEY ORDERS as Payment only!!
TO: Amanda Robson

PAYPAL Accepted, but add 5% to order total
Id: firstbloodfamily.com

RECORDED
NEED ART
OUT DEC / JAN?

FIRST BLOOD FAMILY

LIFE BEFORE PROFIT!

THE DAY OF HORROR IS HERE! RAZORBACK RECORDS IS PROUD TO PRESENT ONE OF ITS BEST CD RELEASES EVER... WTN "ROTTING IN PESTILENCE"

These diabolical undead sergeants from Singapore have recorded one of the greatest grind-pore albums in the genre's history, and this claim can be backed up once you hear this masterpiece.



Rotting in Pestilence
CD RR24

Price: US\$11 US / US\$13 World

Anybody who has ever been a fan of grind-pore will simply gorge themselves on the crushing crescendo of morbid guitar riffs, shrieking drum blasts, and a variety of gut-wrenching vocal attacks. This is an album that demands repeating playing with songs that you'll actually remember.

"R.I.P" also features a special cover of Impetigo's classic song "I work for the Streetcleaner" with Mark Sawicki himself on guitar, and incredibly horrific artwork from the insane mad grave digger, Spain's Mor.

WTN has been lurking in dark alleyways and dusty crypts for far too long and this album is 6 years in the making...

The time has come to reveal their hideous faces and twisted, demented intentions. You have been warned...

ORDERING INFORMATION

Send well concealed cash or money made payable to RAZORBACK RECORDS.
No personal checks! Or you can order with your credit card online through our shopping cart (see our site for more info). It's faster and 100% safe!



Razorback Records
PO Box 321
Farmingville, NY 11738
USA

<http://www.razorbackrecords.com>

<http://greenvenomtheatre.tripod.com/music/house.MP3>

GAGARIN-CORE

HARDCOREPUNKX EFFORTS FROM THE LITTLE HUNGARIAN SCENE

political hardcore - anarcho punk - working class
environmental protections - animal saving - anticapitalism - personal writings

For more information write to:

Zsolt Polgar: 8400-AJKA, Újvilág u. 24., Hungary or
gagarin-core@freemil.hu

Deny Life



SUKK PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS / MC...
DENY LIFE "Soundtrack to A Mass Riot"
Brutal grindcore with more HC influences. Get your copy for 35 or trade. (Ltd 500 copies)
Feel free to write for feature into upcoming split releases. Get in touch now!
c/o Semih Orhan, Fethiye Mah. Isiktepe Cad.
Akent Silesi n/3 Nilufer, Bursa - TURKIYE
cesettur@hotmail.com / www.sukknioz.cjb.net
Still available on Sukk Productions
ANAL EXTREME "Canli Tahrns 03" MC/T-shirt

regards to the First Blood Family ad, here is the NEW address.

FIRST BLOOD FAMILY
PO BOX 11004
PORTLAND, OR 97211
USA
Make money orders to B. Maria

"FUCK STRAIGHT x EDGE...?"

Straightedge and other threats to humanity...

Hey guess what. I'm still straightedge. Yes I can also hear you laughing and saying "big deal". Yes dear it is a big deal. You think it's easy to be straightedge? Put down that beer can, destroy that pack of cigarettes, piss on that packet of heroin and join the club.

People have, over the years, questioned my choice to remain straightedge. From silly comments like (not the exact words but you get the idea) "start drinking lah, you're missing out on good shit!" and "for friendship sake, take a puff... please!" to more sensible ones like "is it fucking necessary to X your hand, like poser like that...". And the ultimately stupid ones like "why you eat meat? I thought you straightedge?" as well as the argument-inciting "but I thought marijuana is a drug?". Now since this is my last issue what better time than now than to take a whole piss-take at the whole straightedge (pro and anti) debate?

Lets respond accordingly to each comment shall we?

"start drinking lah, you're missing out on good shit!" - my only alcohol consumption ever was when I swallowed rum cake because my eccentric tutor gave me some, and only told me its contents when I was chewing happily away. She had exquisite taste. I spit that out. Tasted funny anyway. However I never saw the need for alcohol. Did my religious upbringing have something to do with it? Of course. But at the same time, now that I don't give a fuck about all those moral constraints, I could start drinking can I? Of course too. But I don't. I am already high on life. And it shows because I've been going to clubs a bit for the past couple of years now and never drank anything other than fruit punch or cola. I still don't know how beer tastes like. Wouldn't hurt to try, but I'd rather not. Plus point to this would be no hangovers. But I've also known enough drunks and read up a bit on scientific studies to learn that alcohol when taken in moderation can be useful to your body. It flushes out toxins or something like that, I don't know and don't care.

"for friendship sake, take a puff... please!" - no. why smoke? I don't care if its socially accepted now more than ever before. It fucking makes me sick! Cigarettes smell nice when unlit, tobacco has a very sexy fragrance (I?) but hell it destroys you. DIY cigarettes (or rokok gulung) smells nice lit or unlit but still it fucking destroys you. The only use I saw in tobacco is to aid lighting up pure soggy weed blunts, and in some instances, to keep your body warm in super low temperatures. But I never saw the need for it. Just inhaling the smoke makes one sick. If you deny it there's something wrong with you. Smokers are just in denial. They want to quit so bad because its leeching money off them, giving them heart problems and makes their breath smell like car exhaust pipes but they just cant because they're addicted. *"what does this fucker know, he hasn't smoked before."*

I get comments like that all the time. Reality check. From my days of living in Potong Pasir (my old neighbourhood) through school and National Service I've been surrounded by smokers. When I was 11 the kids I was playing soccer with were lighting up at will. In school even the nerds in my class started smoking, for various reasons. I served in the SCDF, which, if you don't already know is a ghetto for the condemned. Almost everyone smokes, drinks or has spent time in jail. I've lost count of the times people offered me cigarettes... at my vulnerable age of 12.

I've also had my fair share of stress, depression and heartbreak. I could light up anytime. That's the excuse most people give when they start smoking anyway.

And hey, I almost did! It started out when I was going home from school and found a cigarette. When I got home there was no one in. Good, I thought. Then I looked at the cigarette. I went to the kitchen, rummaged through the drawers and found a box of matches. I thought for a while. Then I put the cigarette in my mouth. I lit the match.

Then I thought...what the fuck am I doing.

I killed the flame, took the cigarette out of my hands and destroyed that fucking stick. And since that day I've never looked back. Definitely one of the smartest things I ever did.

And the taxes! Cigarettes in Singapore are now costing more than twice of what they used to cost. Maybe thrice. They don't have 10 stick soft packs anymore. Its now 20 stick hardpacks. They all cost over \$9. Nine fucking dollars. A friend of mine works at the airport and he told me the average price of a 20-stick box costs less than \$2 at the duty-free section.. \$1.60. \$1.70. whatever. Take that amount from the \$9.40 selling price.

Lets just round it off to make things simple and more comprehensible.

\$9.00 (selling price) - \$2.00 (cost price) = \$7 STATE TAX.

So smokers are now fucking the government for the \$7 or so that they're voluntarily giving to them. So most times you're not broke. You're just wasting your money on the state.

"shut up, straightedge is a personal choice!"

Sure It is. You have a right to smoke. But I also have a right to tell you the truth.

so when are you going to quit smoking? (just kidding!) ☺

XXX

"is it fucking necessary to X your hand? like poser like that..." - now this is a reasonable argument. Is it necessary to X hands, declare myself straightedge and -gasp- wear a Youth Of Today shirt? The answer, surprise surprise, is NO.

personal identification cards of the culprits, but like I said, a deal is a deal. I wouldn't want anyone outside the people directly involved with this to watch the video. no shit. not even if you paid me. unless of course, they do deserve some public shaming. I hope not. I would rather settle this matter where everyone lives and let lives, with no punches being thrown, with no more enemies to be made.

I would also like to stress that I only do this to give a clearer picture of what is going on. It has NOTHING TO DO with credibility. Or to be a scene hero. Fuck all this credit rubbish. I leave my name, so people can contact me if they need be. And it's also only right. Too many people talk shit and sign off as anonymous. Which hinders any form of communication at all. I hope Maximum Rock N Roll prints this (which they obviously did, thanks Mike!) so that people know whats up. if anyone else chooses to do so as well, feel free. And if you feel you can replace my name with an anonymous one, please do. It's up to you. Like I said, fuck the credibility. I just want to set the record straight.

I am not perfect myself. As I type this, I owe many people zines, letters, and possibly even money. (Tomas Jernberg of Destination Records from Sweden, where are you? I owe you cash, I think) Yes I am slow, and inefficient. Unfortunately, the expensive way of life here in Singapore does little to rectify that. I can come up with 1000 excuses if I could. We all do, don't we? But I do not cheat. Cheating someone is a totally different thing altogether. Cheating and deceiving belongs to the corporate "normal" world we all are supposedly instinctively against. There are also many questionable things I would like to clarify regarding this as well. It has a lot to do with the reactions to this issue, mainly from the Western area of the globe. Yes I know you are pissed off, but some of the reactions I have read are pissing me off as well. I won't tell you what they are at the moment (maybe even never) because what is important right now is that this whole rip off thing be settled. Its about time hardcore punk did its job, bringing outcasts from ALL OVER THE WORLD together.

My only advice is - and this was also a lesson for me - is that when dealing with anyone, from anywhere, be aware of who you're dealing with. If she/he's a slowcoach, be prepared to wait half a year for your trade returns. If she/he's fast, don't be a prick and take your time to order. If she/he wants 100 Cds from you, don't be dumb and send them all within the next 2 hours. Instead, request for him/her to send his/her trade items to you first. its actually common sense really. If your argument is that hardcore-punk is supposed to be based on trust, I say wake up and get real. If there can be conflicting factions amongst the DIY community, there can also be rip off assholes, closet racists, corporate scum and more. HC-Punk isnt as underground and honest as it used to be. I know, I shouldnt be saying this because I was not around when HC-punk was at its peak in the 80's but I dont think you need a rocket scientist to tell you that things have changed.

So there. I'm done. Spread the word, and leave this open to discussion. Email me at trashkarc@yahoo.com You can carbon copy (in fact I recommend it) it also to prohibitedprojects@excite.com in case my mailbox floods. I'm pretty fucking sure I will get a lot of mail regarding this.

Regards

Shaiful

Zerex zine, Prohibited Projects, Lead II Nitrate,

Rememories

Singapore

September 11, 2003 (it's a coincidence, I insist!)

(as of now I have no knowledge of what these 2 labels have done to rectify their mistakes. I will only act as a last resort, and I request that if the aforementioned people are your contacts please push them to settle things quickly. I do hope I will never have to intervene again. Like I said we already have enough enemies. Hopefully things will change. Far the better.)

Below is an excerpt of an interesting email from James Pisschrist. Also formerly of Drunkard, he holds the record for being the only person ever to spend the night at my place. For two nights.

Hi there Shaiful, how are you going?

PissChrist played our 1st show on Monday nite, in support of a talk/discussion by Wendy-O-Matik, an American woman who wrote a book about open relationships, and how to deal with some of the issues that arise from such a relationship. It wasn't a bad discussion, I guess everything in it was common sense type stuff, like respect, communication, setting boundaries of what's acceptable and what's not etc. Maybe it's not overly necessary to come half way across the globe to tell people what they should already know, it's somewhat harder to put those theories into practise I guess, a bit of positive reinforcement can always help. We played pretty well, not exactly heaps of people there, just some friends and interested (read: polite) onlookers (mainly of the activist persuasion, so most hadn't really been exposed to too much loud and aggressive stuff). It was a benefit for Barricade Books, our floundering anarcho book shop here in Melb., and was held at a community warehouse space called Irene-F.N.B., Barricade, and many other groups have their base here, as well as a rehearsal/recording space, bike workshop etc. A really cool space to be sure!! It was a good place to play a 1st show.

ABC Weapons were supposed to play but couldn't manage it in the end for various reasons, so we were the only band on, definately scared a few people away with our horrible noise. hahahahahahahahah

can guarantee does NOT exist in Singapore. If they do, it would only make sense that people know about it. Singapore is a very small place, with an even smaller hardcore scene. It is impossible that Stand Alone Records, with its ambition of releasing a Totalitar CD, is a stranger to everyone.

Stand Alone supposedly is run by Jera. A Malaysian. And Jera is someone who has ripped off some guy in France. His address is listed in the CAH site (Jera (21-2-7-block 21) Taman Bukit Angkasa 59200 KUALA LUMPUR).

Jera is a stranger to Hadi, but Jera is a friend of Alfisarin, who is the c/o in Hadi's address, if you notice. What Jera did was that he asked Alfisarin to get permission from Hadi to use the Singapore address for parcels. Hadi, being the nice guy agreed. However he did not give permission to mention STAND ALONE Records. He only allowed a "c/o Alfisarin" on his street address, obviously to indicate that the parcel was meant for Alfisarin via Hadi.

About Totalitar, its true, the CD did not exist. Apart from the fact that the band did not give permission, there was also news that the release was cancelled.

So what does this Jera guy do? Lies to everyone that he will release Totalitar, and requests that people trade with him. Promises 40 CDs and disappears when he receives their stuff. He backstabs a friend (Alfisarin) and goes a stab further by exploiting a total stranger (Hadi). Ultimate scumbag. So the end line is, Hadi has been made use of by 2 fuckers (Azalea aka Au aka Borhan + Jera). Alfisarin, who has tried to help Jera, in the end gets shit on his face as well.

Abdul Hadi's email is not PRAYFODDEATH@HOTMAIL.COM, it is onevoiceceres@hotmail.com

I know that this is a complicated situation which cannot be resolved over night. It disappoints me that the thriving HC scene in South East Asia is destroyed by rip offs in Malaysia and Indonesia. Malaysia and Indonesia have the best hardcore/punk scenes in the world, and a few bastards decide to fuck it all up. I also am aware that this will take some time, and am also aware that opinions might change and the tables might turn. I also declare that I, and a few others, are helping Hadi simply because he is a nice guy and will not do something like this. I could be wrong, and some of the things I say could have a second truth. I am still finding out more but at the moment, I think ABDUL HADI IS INNOCENT.

Why am I so sure that Hadi is telling the truth? Firstly, many people know his name, his mailing address, his home, his face and his workplace. Singapore being a small country means it would be difficult to hide. If he is a cheat, which I insist he is not, it would only mean the end of him. People aren't so dumb as to be "openly available" if they have committed a crime would they?

The Stand Alone Records issue - part 2

Greetings.
Shitful here again. It has come to my attention that a particular Wan Hazril is mentioned on the CAH site under the RIP OFF BASTARDS notice by this line "also goes by the name of Wan Hazril". (This has been removed from the CAH site after clarification)

Do not be mistaken, Wan Hazril has NOTHING TO DO WITH STAND ALONE RECORDS OR AZALEA. What he has done is spread emails, from all sides, about this matter. He is basically spreading the statement which Stand Alone Recs has sent him and sending it to everyone. Which to me is a right thing to do, because everyone has the right to voice out about this issue, whether innocent or guilty because it will shed light on who is telling the truth or lie.

I have known Wan Hazril for quite sometime, and he has always been honest and fair. Please remove the misconception that Wan Hazril, (who runs a distro and plays bass for a band which I will not name at this point of time - I will reveal why later - if you already know then you should also already know what a reliable person he is) has anything to do with Stand Alone.

Wan Hazril is NOT a rip off, nor a cheat. He is a cool, honest person which everyone should deal with.

As for the Stand Alone Recs / Azalea issue...please await further emails from me when I find out/confirm more.

The STAND ALONE Records Issue - Part 3

So what has happened since then? Well, some of our hardcore superheroes from Singapore and Malaysia combined forces to CONFRONT those guilty of this punk blasphemy. During a gig in Malaysia, organized by none other than Borhan of Azalea Distribution, we managed to confront both the forementioned person as well as Jera (known also as Azza Affendi).

First, let's talk about Jera. Abdul Hadi, the main victim of this plot confronted him. What began as a slow, dig-out the truth talk became a heated confrontation which nearly exploded into a messy 12 against 1. I will spare the details but all I can say is, after much persuasion, Jera finally admitted that he was a culprit. He was given a few months grace to settle everything. The code of the day was "return what you took, pay back what you owe".

I know you're getting excited but bear with me. Borhan was next. Again, I will spare the details. There was another confrontation. By then, some people were drunk, thus making the discussion a lot more spicy. Fingers were pointed, but in the end, Borhan of Azalea admitted to fucking with the credit card system at the expense of Abdul Hadi. The code of the day was applied again, this time with a longer period, due to the extremity of the situation.

Now, everyone is probably scratching their heads and wondering what would be so convincing about a brief explanation. Here's why.

1) the cheats were given the benefit of doubt, and the deal was that we would give them time to settle the matter. For those labels who were ripped off. NOW IS THE TIME. Make sure you are returned what you are owed. Feel free to make further complaints to anyone if need be if these "polite but concise demands" are met.

2) everything has been recorded on video, and I mean everything, to the kung fu kick which narrowly missed its target, to the classic Malay curse words, to even the

Ultra Brutal German Death / Grind,
which will tear you a complete new
asshole. Totally essential shit herell
Features tracks from their split Ep
w/ Grolnchurn. What are you
waiting for? Get it now!!!

\$8 PPD USA / \$11 PPD WORLD

Send Cash or Money Order to
CAH Records / PO BOX 1421
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54702 / USA

Let me clear things up. I don't like a lot of straightedge bands, and I would have to agree with the drunks on this one, a lot of straightedgers out there are righteous insecure fools. I know far too many straightedgers who stay within their "clean" clan but the moment they step out of that circle (like spend a month with drunk punks) they tend to drop the edge, start smoking, drinking and what not. I've always been critical of that. To drop your edge just because you're no longer around people that share the same ideas as you is making a fucking mockery of all the ABSTINENCE and RESISTENCE which straightedge is all about.

So why do I even call myself straightedge when I hate half of this straightedge scene and its stupid incarnations (like straightedge.com), and when majority of my friends are human chimneys and drunk and so on, and most importantly, when I don't feel the straightedge label is necessary?

The answer is simple (well not really) although not really comprehensible. I call myself straightedge, and X my hands just for fun, and also to piss people off. To say fuck you to the kids that dropped the edge like a bomb and grew up and tried to be more "adult" by starting to drink. To also say fuck you to the same people who dropped the edge, and that labels mean nothing when you just lie to yourself. To say that being straightedge doesn't mean it has to end when you're 18. To also say that you can dig drunk punk, frequent discos and clubs and wear RUPTURE and CRIPPLE BASTARDS shirts (those bands rule by the way) but don't have to start drinking or smoking. To also say that just because you are straightedge you don't have to wear Nike or agree to everything Youth Of Today said (they rule too but fuck Nike!). To also say that just because your best friend dropped the edge, you don't have to follow suit. To also say that straightedge and drunk punks and potheads can get along if they bother to understand each other. To say that marijuana is not a fucking drug and its fucking okay to smoke weed if you know what its for. I'm straightedge because I want to be, and not to fit in. Hell, straightedge was never meant to fit in.

"why you eat meat? I thought you straightedge?" - now assertions like these are more irritating than drunk punks and third rate ska bands. I don't know how you got that idea man. To me straightedge and your diet never intertwined. Im guessing you people listen to too much Youth Of Today (when Ray and crew just discovered Krishna consciousness) and Earth Crisis.

While I must maintain that keeping off cigarettes and alcohol does a bit for the animals too (tobacco companies constantly does tests on animals to measure the levels of toxicity in their products, and some beers have animal extracts; more on that later), I do think that Straightedge and its "rules" are silly. But more often than not, these rules were brought about by kids (presumably huge fans of such bands like YOT and EC) who misinterpret the aforementioned bands ideas, repeat what they say and consequently create a set of rules for their Xed up friends to follow. Note that I said "ideas". Straightedge is an idea. It's not a set of rules. Its not going to add 5 years to your life.

Ian Mackaye coined the term straightedge, and his credo was no drinking, smoking, drugs and fucking. Youth Of Today added meat-free to that pledge. Fine. That's positive right?

Earth Crisis further accentuated that by drawing a hardline stance. Stupid, but whatever.

RAMBO wanted to add God to the list of things straightedge should abstain from, and replace God with sex, since no one remains celibate anyway.

Monster X had marijuana-sympathy.

And so on and so forth...

The decline of straightedge was probably largely due to an increasing number of confused straightedgers who didn't know what to follow.

To those people I say, don't follow! Use your fucking head. Straightedge existed to rebel at the self destructive rationale of the early punk movement. It was pulling away from negativity, and encouraged positive elements. That is straightedge. That justifies straightedge!

If you, like me, find sex beautiful, then go fuck someone! If you think meat stinks and feel that vegetarianism should be part of straightedge, more power to you! If you think beating up cops and putting out forest fires makes you more straightedge, I'm not stopping you! Hell if you think burning this zine makes life less depressive, go ahead and set this paper on fire!

What im trying to say is, straightedge, in my eyes was pulling away from negative aspects and in return replacing them with positive ideas. Ideas, fucker! Ideas! There has to be lines drawn of course, and while rules are stupid, always remember things always exist in relativity, subjectivity and objectivity. Use your head.

For the record, was I ever vegetarian? Yes I was. But I gave up because I was lazy and I wasn't pissed off enough. I didn't feel it in my heart to go vegan the same way as I feel it in my heart to remain straightedge. So I pretty much understand the "vegetarianisation" of straightedge. Positive youth, healthy lifestyle blah blah blah. Then again, stop wearing Nike even though you got the vegan version because they're all sweatshop products.

"But I thought marijuana is a drug?" - marijuana / cannabis is as much of a drug as much as meat is food. It is only called a drug because the capitalist juggernauts said so! Marijuana to me is a herb. It can be smoked, made into fabric and made into paper. It is the ultimate life saver. It relieves you of flu when smoked. You can also put it in food. It was made illegal after cotton farmers lobbied against it because they saw it as competition. It was made illegal because pharmaceutical industries saw them as competition. It was made illegal because the

NAH! Won't give in and won't fuckin take it! Comp CD
International comp with 47 tracks, 18 bands... into hardcore/punk/indie
Fwd: WASHER (br), FORCA MACABRA (br), ROT (br), SCAB (br), CORNUCOPIA (br), SHT 70 (br), DEPRIVE (br), ROTTENCOLD (br), THE KILL (br), B.A.M. (br), TOTAL FUCKING DESTRUCTION (br), EXISTENCE (br), MEEZE (br), EYL APA (br), NAPALMED (br), FROM THE ASHES (br), D.O.D. (br), JAPURA HOSE PROJECT (br), CATALEPSIS (br), Plus 24 pages booklet with band logos, lyrics, etc...

For only \$4 Asia, \$55au world, P150 (pdf) - TRADES are welcome but write first!

NoiseAttack Records c/o Josefine Sison / MCPO Box 3689 / 1275 Makati City / Philippines

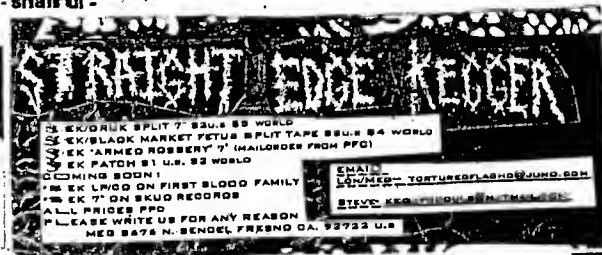
Warspite
"Gallery of the Macabre"

capitalists didn't want people to be independent and grow their own medicine and fabric, hence becoming their competition. One of the arguments against cannabis was that it made one groggy and slouchy and detached from the world. But doesn't television have the same effect? Another argument is that cannabis smokers would be wasting money by buying weed off the drug lords. But would they need to do so if cannabis was decriminalized and homegrown? A stupid straightedge argument is that cannabis is a drug and then they don't tell you why. I say paracetamol by-product producers are owned by the biggest capitalist fuckers and it is a drug as well. Sick? Take a Panadol or take a blunt. Do I take cannabis? Used to. But I never saw the need to. Do I take Panadol? Of course. I'm lazy and can't afford a doctor.

I'll end all this 'straight talk' with this disclaimer:
Straight edge is personal. True till death is for crazy naïve people who can't see what the future holds.

xxx TRUE TILL FALSE xxx

- shaiful -



the artwork below was drawn by Saha (Embrace zine) many years ago but it was submitted to me too late and consequently, has never been used. I put it here so everyone can admire Saha's great art. contact him at embracezine@yahoo.com write him at 4A LRG 6, KG BARU, 36000 KLUANG, JOHOR, MALAYSIA



They urge me to speak and I comply. Would my purposes be better served by remaining silent? By foiling them?

The Main Course (my response)

(The passage below appeared in Maximum Rock N Roll November 2003 issue and was a huge subject in Singapore and Malaysia for most of that year.)

Dear friends

As you all know, there has been a recent problem regarding certain people involved in HC-punk in South East Asia. In the July edition of MAXIMUM ROCK N ROLL, there was a letter addressing this situation. Now, being part of the SE Asian hc punk community since 1996 (in Singapore to be specific) I urge everyone not to take the recent debacle as their conclusive decision when dealing with people from SOUTH EAST ASIA (for idiots who suck at Geography, SE Asia includes Indonesia, Brunei, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, etc). Yes rip offs and scumbags exist, but they are everywhere, not just in this region.

This matter is pertaining to what has been sent in the MRR columns section by BUSTED HEADS Records. This is regarding the RIP OFF ALERT concerning a certain STAND ALONE Records, supposedly from Singapore. Labels which have been victimised in this particular episode includes Busted Heads, Crimes Against Humanity, Some Strange Music and more.

For an initiation of this issue, please read the Crimes Of Humanity website at www.cahrecords.com, under Other Info -> Rip Off Bastards. After that, read what I have written below for a thorough explanation. I have segmented it to 3 parts, so please read through it so that you know what is up. It might seem confusing but feel free to make more detailed enquiries.

Please spread this information as widely as you can.

Regards

Shaiful

Zerex zine, Lead II Nitrate, Rememories, Prohibited Projects
Singapore

The Stand Alone Records issue : Part 1

Subject: RIP OFF ALERT - STAND ALONE Records

Abdul Hadi

c/o Mohd Alfasharin b Abd Wahab

Blk 126, #02-147,

Bishan St 12,

Singapore 57012

Hello everyone. Shaiful here from Zerex zine, Rememories, Lead (II) Nitrate and Han Yew Kwang from Singapore. It has come to my attention that there is a particular "Abdul Hadi" from Singapore who runs Stand Alone Records and has ripped countless people off. Unfortunately, this issue is not as simple as that.

Yes, Stand Alone is a rip off. But, it is also important to know that it is NOT OPERATED by Abdul Hadi. Please read the following to find out more. Being a part of the Singapore hardcore scene for some time now, I have known Abdul Hadi to be one of the most hardworking, sincere and honest people in the scene. While it may be human to make mistakes, he is definitely not someone to rip people off. He's a nice guy, and perhaps too nice. He is a victim of sabotage.

You see, Abdul Hadi as far as I know, is the vocalist for Social Integration and runs One Voice Recs/Distro. Both are cool and worth checking out. Nothing more, and DEFINITELY NOT Stand Alone Records.

For those in the dark, due to postal service inconsistencies, it would be hard for huge parcels to go direct to Malaysia. There are always chances that any parcel sent to Malaysia will be stolen or confiscated. There are many reasons behind this from paranoia to artistic conservatism to plain corruption. Hence a few people who have mailing addresses in Malaysia utilize addresses of their friends in neighbouring country Singapore when awaiting large parcels. The parcels will then be handed over by the Singaporean addressee when his/her Malaysian friend comes to visit or vice versa. I know a few people who do this for safety reasons.

Abdul Hadi's address is no exception. He has helped a few people this way. However his address has been made use of by 2 scumbags who have ripped various labels off. From Busted Heads to CAH, and many more. These 2 scumbags are:

Azalea aka Borhan aka An from Malaysia
Jera also from Malaysia

Lets first talk about Azalea. The Hadi Azalea that you all saw in the address is NOT Hadi. It is meant to be for Azalea. Since the package will be arriving at Hadi's house, it has to be addressed to Hadi somehow, otherwise Hadi cannot receive it. Hence, you see a Hadi beside the Azalea. Azalea is actually a distro run by a guy called Borhan. I know for sure that this distro exists because I once received an email with his list (more on that later). So what does this Borhan do? Word is that he works in a bank (note that this is second-hand information) hence he is able to manipulate credit card systems. In doing so, he fucks with someone's account and uses it to "order" stuff. I say "order" because he didn't pay for it anyway. The stuff gets sent to Hadi's address in Singapore and who gets the bad name? Hadi. Hadi has mentioned before that he was taken aback by the fact that Borhan's packages includes Metallica and Nirvana stuff (as mentioned on the CAH site, probably from gemm.com) and commercial hardcore stuff. Some of these items were placed in the Azalea Distro list, at FUCKED UP PRICES (RM25 for a CD he never paid for, what the fuck?!). Unfortunately I have deleted the email but I promise to put it up here as soon as I am able to retrieve it. Hadi didn't feel too good about it and lied that he was having some problems when in truth he didn't like the idea about having that kind of packages sent to his home. I would feel the same way. So basically, Borhan of Azalea Distro made use of Abdul Hadi's address for his own gains. Nice guy on the outside, big time asshole inside. He is a new distro, no promotion, no one has heard of him and suddenly he has a huge catalog and he had the cheek to put down his mailing address (in the email which I have deleted). Besides ripping people off, he stabs a "friend" in the back and gives him a bad name. Fuck him. He also supposedly plays in a band, which I will not mention at this moment, because you cannot blame an entire band just because one of them decides to be a bastard.

Now, about Stand Alone Records. Stand Alone Records, I

http://dungpeople.kerbau.com

To: seadiytouring@yahoo.com
From: "trashkore" <trashkore@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, 7 Oct 2004 19:27:46 +0100 (BST) Subject: Re: [seadiytouring] Corporations, capitalism and DIY comfort holes.

hey joe
basically you've already voiced my sentiments but i'd just add this on for argument's sake..

i work freelance and occasionally do events management-related work and have acting assignments as well. it is VERY difficult to avoid the involvement of corporations (like recently i was a game marshal for a game competition with XBOX and Microsoft playing a big part) the moment you do work in this line, more so in \$\$\$singapore.

sometimes you face this huge conflict of ideals whereby on one hand its the best job you've ever done yet at the same time it involves a corporation which; while you may not necessarily be against, is one that you know has fucked people over.

sometimes you feel like you want to be a 'humanist' and just flat out reject that job but yet you know if you dont get that job you wont have enough to eat for the next month blah blah blah.

i've even had info educational acting jobs in schools promoting stuff like racial harmony (good) but in the guise of national pride (bad), so that means i'm involved in scholastic brainwash! 10 punk points deducted. bad boy! fortunately i havent had any job which would (in)directly promote the practices of a questionable institution/corporation/organization and i hope that i would never be offered a job like that.

selling out because you've joined the ranks of your enemies is one bad thing.
selling out to do a job you hate because the work you love clashes with your idealisms isnt necessarily better.

i guess at the end of the day you have to decide where to draw the line. though most days i am TOEING the line between guilt and my next meal.

just my thoughts.

Shaiful

RIP OFF ALERT!

(one disturbing aspect of the scene in Singapore which i should address is some people aren't 'particular' with details. They blindly agree to work with just any band, zine or person that comes their way. I always feel that whatever you do you should always know who you're dealing with)

The appetizer (what happened)

Message from Nick Crimes Against Humanity Records (USA)

Mohd Affishahrin Abd Wahab
Blk 126, #02-147,
Bishan Street 12,
Singapore 570126,
Singapore
"Stand Alone Records"

He ripped me off with 40 cds and claimed he was sending the Totalitar Cd Discography he released. The cd was never released and he ripped me and tons of other people off.

Message from Disurge@aol.com

We can confirm for you that he/they are a rip off in some manner or other.. we sell records on gamm.com. this guy from singapore (he called himself Hadi Azalla) ordered over a thousand dollars worth of our stock on fraudulent credit cards. I'm sure it's the same guy. on his fourth order he had us send the records to a Mohd Borhan in Malaysia...He (they?) bought mostly thirty dollar and above records by Metallica, Nirvana etc...likely to resell...then thrown in were recent crust/grind releases I'm assuming for themselves. Gamm.com caught on to their fraud and luckily the credit card insurance must've covered for everything. I think it would be too much of a coincidence if these were two separate "crime" rings going on in both singapore and malaysia by two guys with hadi and mohd in their names. feel free to pass this information along..

paul/abe/discourage records.

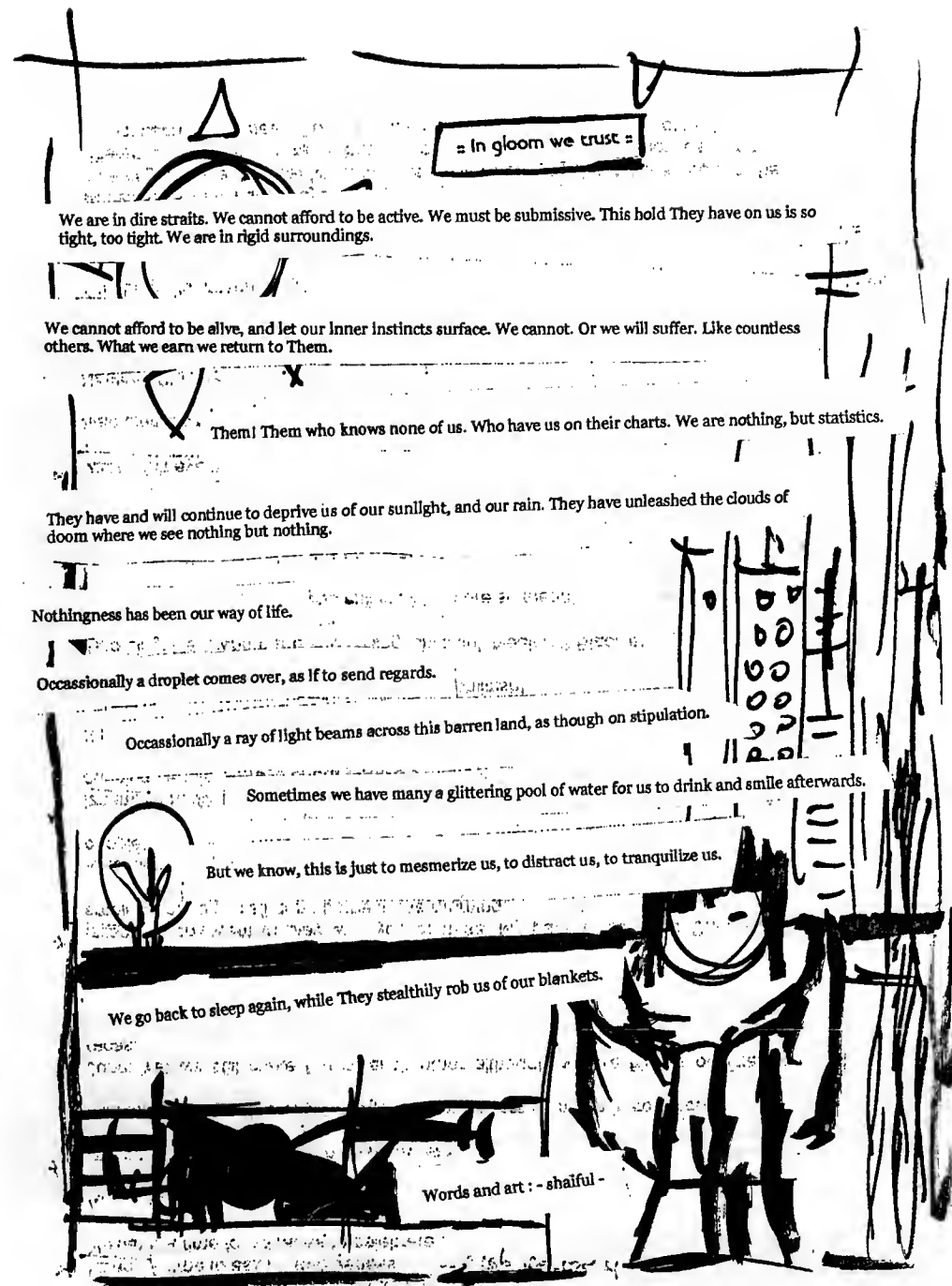
I went back to gamm and found the notice they sent regarding hadi and low and behold his address was there too...definitely the same guy(s). also note his e-mail address he used when dealing with us... hope this will at least put your anger into high gear...maybe something can be done. discourage

ALERT! Fraud: CONFIRMED by GEMM admin
A GEMM administrator has confirmed that that this customer is fraudulent or has a credit card that is being used fraudulently. You should cancel all orders with this customer. Remember that you can decline to do business with any customer, and that you assume all risk when accepting orders in GEMM.

More info... PRAYFOEDEATH@HOTMAIL.COM

Azra Affendi
Lot 651, KG Belukar Beta
16450 Kota Bharu
Kelantan Darul Naim
Malaysia

He also ripped off Obscene Records, Some Strange Music, Busted Heads Records, and a few others I forgot to write down.



Democracy

interview

This interview is pretty old but I don't give a fuck. Democracy are pretty much still my favourite band from Indonesia right now. I first discovered them at Vrykosound studios when some Indonesian kid came over (when I was hanging out there) and traded the Democracy tape with Ayong (Stompin' Ground) who was working there at that point of time. He allowed me to play the tape and I was fucking blown away!!! Fast furious sincere hardcore with female vocals. I immediately contacted them, and the rest is history. Really nice folks too, when I managed to catch up with them on tour with Steve Towson earlier in the year.

1) < Greetings. Who is Democracy? Why the name? Is it a piss take on the word "Democracy"? What does everyone do in the band? >

Hail ev'ryone in S'pore scene, we are DEMOCRACY. Democracy are:

-Ferdian (bass)
-Gita (vocal)
-Gofar (drum)
-Xigit (guitar)

Democracy was formed on 1998, we choose ta' name by the situation in Jakarta at that time. There's a lot of demonstration actions everywhere, people just do protest to ta' fuckin' shit government because they're not content with government working system, and our country was felt confused, uncomfortable.

-Ferdian is an idle now, he was graduated from his hotel management college in 2002.
-Gita graduated her tourism high school, and will continue her study to the public relations college this year.
-Gofar was graduated from senior high school in 2001.
-Xigit still study on law faculty on Pancasila University, Jakarta.

2) < Your demo on New Heaven Records was awesome! Tell me more about it...how long did it take to record it? Who wrote the songs and how has the response been? >

Oh, is that shit heard awesome? Wow!! Thank you, we appreciate it!

We record 16 tracks, 1 shift (5 hours) at K studio, Jakarta. It's taken almost 3 months until distribution process.

-Song 1, 2, 3, and 5 are composed by Gita.
-Song 4 is composed by Ferdian.
-Song 6 is composed by Gofar and Gita.

The music are completely arrangement by Democracy.

3) < One of the songs in the demo (They call me...girl!) had a very personal touch to it; about a girl being discriminated simply for being one. What's the story behind it? >

"They Call Me...Girl" is talkin' 'bout girl's gender discrimination. The girl's trying to struggle for her right, she want the world to know there's no more different between her and other men, she try to prove that she can be the tough one too.

4) < How is the scene in Indonesia? How would you compare the present scene to the one maybe 5 years ago? How would you compare the Indonesian hc punk scene to the rest of South East Asia? >

Indonesian scene today is goin' better than 5 years ago. Punk/hc used to be such usual music and lifestyle only. We have a lot of bands, for example in one neighbour, there's have about ten-twenty bands, and we believe they have a good direction.

5) < How is the social and economical situation in Indonesia? As far as I observe, the rich and poor gap is wide, with very few Indonesians who are doing "just fine". Is my observation wrong? Why? >

Yeah, you're fuckin' right, dude!

The economical situation in Indonesia is completely measurable. The primerial commodition's price is goin' high everytime, but ta' silly government can't do anything. Believe me, they're totally weak!!

The different line between the rich and poor is more goin' real, and we think it's ridiculous, 'coz actually Indonesia a rich country.

6) < The new year has brought about an age of surveillance and post-terrorism. What do you think of the current world paranoia? What do you think of the almost inevitable USA led war on Iraq? >

The paranoia was happen because of the frightened and depression of war.

-Ev'rybody can see war is just a silly thing, it'll be make unpeace world. You can see that USA just like the barbarian, don't know anything 'bout peacelife, it's really suck!!

Instead of going for multinational corporations sponsors, why not small, mom-n-pop companies around you? The small record labels and DIY t-shirt brands around you? Or do what we have always done, that is NOT to rely your "music" as the main money-earner for your life. Me and my band, we all have jobs outside of the band. And the jobs we have chosen to have are jobs which we love doing. So we are not "forced" to do work for money. We find areas which we like to do that pays enough for us to get by and live our lives. We also choose jobs that would "minimise" our contributions to the bullshits in the world. I do website and print designs, yes, for selected companies and even government bodies too but I would also do free work for NGOs, charities, opposition parties, free media and such entities which I believe in. Our bassist does event management work, freelancing with companies who do events around the country, sometimes working with videos on health issues and such. Our singer still studying but works part-time at an art gallery who would support new young artists. Our drummer is in music school and looking to work in the music world.

In short, the band is our passion but it doesn't need profits. So it's free to do what it wants. Going around doing gigs and losing money is not a problem for us. It's something that we love to do again and again without tiring. Yes, we try to compensate by selling t-shirts and stuff but even then we would end up just giving away our merchandise for free all the time. It's love not a labour of hate.

As SST said it many years ago, Corporate Rock Still Sucks!

The problem I see with the DIY Punk/HC scene is the way it removes and marginalises it's great revolutionary ideas and actions from the larger society. They do this by rejecting anything which they perceived as "capitalism" and since the world is run on that premise, they would dig themselves into comfortable holes which they and friends would sit in. Yeah, anti-capitalism is great but how far should you carry that banner without losing touch with the real world? This is when the scene became elitist - usually thumbing their noses at people outside of their circle without giving those people a chance at discovering the wonderful ideas of the DIY scene. Kids would laugh and make fun of the stupidity they see with consumerist MTV kids and also the clueless street-punks and skinheads but kept their ideas away from these people. That's elitism and that sucks.

You wanna change the world around you BUT you jealously keep your ideas and suggestions well away from the reach of the public. So what's

that?

Isn't that a scenario us Malays would call "Syok Sendiri" (self-satisfied and happy but in actuality doesn't change anything or help anyone apart from your immediate "crew"). Hell, the worldwide scene works on the basis of "capitalism" and "consumerism", just open up your zines and see all the things being hawked on the pages. The only difference is that it's perceived as a more "ethical" business. Non-profititeering, anti-greed and fair deals. It's still capitalism. So why not work on anti-greed and such ideas? The HC/Punk world is NOT rejecting "capitalism" but working within it by minimising the bullshit and inequalities. If you truly reject capitalism then you would be giving out your services, your music and labour for free. Off course, you can't do that because this whole world is sustained (and fucked over) by capitalism. In short, you can't escape it, because if you can then you would not need to pay for that bus ride you took.

There are ways to reach out to the world at large without losing your "religion". What you need is strength, commitment and passion in your ideas.

Putting out your recordings at the normal record stores to reach more people is NOT selling-out. Signing to a big label and losing your control over your recordings is a sell-out.

Appearing in a magazine talking about your ideas and politics that will affect new people is not selling out. Appearing on the media without saying anything is.

Being an activist punk rocker is about using and subverting the system around us NOT hiding and removing you and your cliques from it.

Kids in the DIY scene nowadays have forgotten the "big picture" of the DIY punk scene. They squabble over this little, insignificant pictures without realising that it's not helping anyone. Get out there and tell world that it's fucked and give em ideas to make the world a better place for all of us and stand fast with your ideals. That's how it should be done. Nowadays, it's just you and the crew. What's sad, most of you will "grow up", get married, finance a mortgage and leave the scene; mostly without putting all the ideas you've learnt from the scene into practice. Just become another guy surrendering to the wiles of "needs". And that's that. Isn't that a fucking waste? cheers,

joe
ricecooker zine:
<http://ricecooker.kerbau.com>
dungpeople:

Fragments of my initiation

Comments, remarks and updates lifted from the web a few months prior to the printing of this issue. Some informative, some argumentative but generally interesting!

AUGUST 17th, 2004

FIRST BLOOD FAMILY UPDATE : long overdue, but many changes have occurred in a 2-3 month period. We have relocated driving and moving over 2100 miles. Most of which was done by myself alone and taking much longer than thought as well as 2-3 times more expensive than I thought. It was a quick decision made after the splitting up of Amanda and myself and the label. While we are still friends she fucked up and fucked me in the process hard and for big \$\$\$. But I have been through worse and have been released from PROBATION and am now living in PORTLAND, OR.

New address and contact info:

FIRST BLOOD FAMILY

PO BOX 11004

PORTLAND, OR 97211

If need street address call or email.

New email is:

fbfamily@comcast.net

Anyone who needs new phone number email ea well. I only have a cell and watch my minutes. After 8PM Pacific time and weekends is free!!

Mailorder money order out to B. MARTA no more AMANDA DOBRONIT

New catalog early September after I return from Des Moines IOWA for NATE BLACK MARKET FETUS and Randi wedding. Possibly will hit Havoc Fest ee well and drive back to PDX and hope the car makes it.

I am way behind on all but no mailorder will be unfilled and I will throw extra goodies in for the wait and lack of news. Same goes for traders. Distra I will be in touch ea I have new stuff out and a lot on the way!

Bands and pressing plants watch for calls to finish up our projects in the works. Now everyone getting this please realize I am one person and it will take me quite a bit to catch up so be patient as all will get their goods! Use subject line in emails with what it really is about for faster service (it will not be skipped over if important.)

Not sure what else is needed at this time but watch for more updates as this info is remembered.

BRAD BLOOD

(see First Blood Family ads attached in this zine!)

(the chunk below was taken off the seadiytouring yahoo group. It started as just informative email about touring bands and it developed into a discussion of our so-called 'punkrock ethics' involving quite a few people. Cheers to Joe Kidd for initiating the topic...)

Joe Kidd <dungboy@kerbau.com> wrote:

To: seadiytour

From: Joe Kidd

Date: Wed, 6 Oct 2004 13:41:44 +0800

Subject: [seadiytouring] Corporations, capitalism and DIY comfort holes.

hey seelan & all,

i would love to hear more discussion on this, especially from the others on the list.

anyway, the question of "elitism" does not arise when it comes to standing up against corporations strong-arming their way into the scene and its activities. To resist against such blatant "corporate takeovers/hijackings" of a youth culture that "stands up for something more than just pure entertainment" is a not being elitist at all. It's about resistance against a subtly hostile adversary that has no other agenda than making money off you and your kind. It's about standing up to what you believe in, especially if you're against mindless consumerism, corporate greed and the numbing/dumbing-down of the public.

To play your music in front of corporate banners/posters/billboards which are actually against what you and your ideals stand for is, like I said, very silly. Personally, the scene is about independence from all these evils of the world we are living in and one of them is greed. Greed fuelled all these injustices, the lopsided, uneven distribution of global wealth and the brutal social conditions that people are subjected to today, and corporations are the main culprits.

Corporations are not "humane". They are controlled by no one but boards of share-holders and they don't want social justice nor equality for all. It's all about profits and the way corporations work is not about sustaining a certain level of profitability, it's about increasing profits. If they make 10 percent profit this year, they want 20 percent next year. And for them to make the same ten percent every year is not an achievement, it's a failure and heads will roll.

Corporations who are actually making money, enough to raise their workers living conditions and standards, would rather channel the profits to "diversifying" or relocation to a more "cheaper" areas of operations, mostly they would retrain the workers and move on for more profits. Like I said, corporations are not about making people's conditions better. It's about making money. They don't care about you.

And for you to stand up there, playing your music, your heartfelt, blood-and-sweat-music under their banners of exploitation is SICK! All that you stands for suddenly trivial and full of bullshit talk. It stinks to high heaven, man.

So yeah, we need money for the gigs, to finance the bands' rehearsals, accommodation and travelling expenses. That's the reality of the world now but they are other ways for us to have a favourable compensation for all these needs.

7) < Let's go back to the Indonesian cosmos. Tapes seem to be the best format in Indonesia, especially in the punk scene. What about CDs? Has there been a change? What about mp3s? What do you think of mp3s? Do you think that although they have opened up a world of free accessible music, they are also the reason why a lot of modern music is soul-less? >

Now, there's a few record label that production CD.

But, most of bands think tapes (cassette) still be the easiest way to recording. Yes, we think MP3 have make free download music for we can access it easily so we can enjoy it. It's good, any problem?

8) < How are the youth in Indonesia? Is there educational stability? >
A lot of children and youth can't continue their study at school, it's only 'cause school always determining high fixed price. So, economical tension just make a poor children can not go to school to study. Our country doesn't have an educational stability.

9) < Occasionally I read about very strong political demonstrations (anti war, anti capitalism, etc) in Indonesia. Has anyone in the band ever participated in such? Why? >
Democracy always supports every demonstration anti-war, anti-capitalism (although capality issue is always be a complex trouble), is unless the demonstration action only take side with a certain class (damn! shit! my english is so...so...bad! sorry.) (ed - ngak mengapa, bisa diatur deh...)
Gofar always participated with our other friends. Why? 'Cause he's feel that he is a part of this struggle.

10) < Are there a lot of active zines in Indonesia? Can you name me a few? >
We have a lot of good zines in Indonesia. For example... Setara Mata zine, Rebellious Sickness zine, Our Step Today zine, Seryum zine, Life For Anything Else zine, etc. Wow! You can get lot of kinds of zine here.

11) < I heard there is heavy porn-abuse, sex-abuse, prostitution in Indonesia. Any comments? Are there any major factors or roots which are behind this? >
The only one factor of prostitution here is just low economically. Very low life standard makes people do anything to get money. You know, there's parents selling their daughter to be a hostess when their daughter graduate from elementary school, even their just 11/12. Whatta shame thing, huh?

12) < Will Democracy ever play in Singapore / Malaysia? >
Of course we want to play there so much! But, the expensive price of transportation and accomodation still be the problems for us. We can't pay it. I believe it'll be an excite show to play there. Maybe next time in the future, we'll have an opportunity to play there, and we'll appreciate you if you help us, he...he...

13) < Any future plans, releases, intentions of Democracy? >
We just prepare new materials for a compilation album, all female vocals compilation, so we just play with other bands who have female vocals too. It'll be GREAT!
We also preparing our 2nd album too, but I don't know exactly when.

14) < That's the end of the interview. Please list your contactables and have a hardcore day!!! >
DEMOCRACY c/o NEW HEAVEN Records.
Jl. Setiabudi Timur III no.15
Rt.08/008, Jakarta Selatan 12910
INDONESIA

pergijauh@lycos.com
democracy@cbgb.net
ta_j@cbgb.net

"STAY YOU, STAY TRUE, STAY HARDCORE"
-gita-

Not A Couple of Love

Dear!!
We should be doing it now, before we running too far.
Like it is already to supposed to be.

(We're not a couple of love)
Just at that time (love)

Wasting our time through it all, tried to make it ultimate.
At a expense price, it's not an ultimate.
I don't stand by you there, because I don't want to be.
Well, yes, time is gone, it's not a waste.
We're not a couple, it's not a waste, it's not a waste.
And I believe we both will survive.

It's My Entrance

I believe in the time, I don't want to run away from it.
Nobody can take my liberty, nobody can take my freedom from it.

(It's My Entrance)
I believe in the time, I don't want to run away from it.
Nobody can take my liberty, nobody can take my freedom from it.

It's hard to know the way you feeling inside.
Until you sit in a room to think about it.
When the whole world is going, you can't be alone anymore.
You'll be there, you'll be there, you'll be there, you'll be there.

Now, when you love, you're not alone, you're not alone.
This is the time, this is the time, you can't be alone anymore.
You'll be there, you'll be there, you'll be there, you'll be there.

Democracy
c.p.

Jim Lucky Turn
You

Not A Couple
of Love

Perbedaan

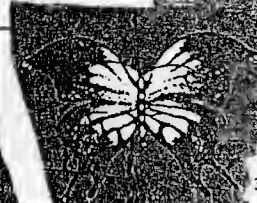
Positive Life

It's My Entrance

They Call Me

Gita

NEW HEAVEN
RECORDS



KALASHNIKOV interview

I was at Ray's (Kate of Kale) place a few years back when he told me I had to listen to this band whose demos he had just received. That band was KALASHNIKOV from Italy and the demo was "Romantic songs of dissidence". I was enraptured by the beauty of the music which was married with a disguised intent to address listeners of something. After getting in touch with them (thanks Ray!) and exchanging mail and music with them I managed to score this interview...

1) Hello Sarta! How are you?

Fine, thank, Shaiful! We are very happy to collaborate with Singapore's guys!

2) Who are the people in KALASHNIKOV, when and why did you form? How did everyone know each other? How has the journey as a band been so far?

Kalashnikov is a punk band formed by six friends. We have been friends for 10 years and we love playing music following the call of our spirits, expressing our passions and our social disease.

3) KALASHNIKOV has a strong opera influence in its music. I personally find it unique and beautiful to blend neo-classical sounds with punkrock! Was that intentional? Any inspirations/influences that made the band lean towards that kind of sound?

Eh, eh, this is the main question: guys all around the world ask it to us! It's simple: we love music and we listen a lot of bands without any cultural barrier, so we listen also metal bands, progressive bands, movie-sound-tracks, seventies rock, pop and dance, opera and neoclassical music. There are no limits to our music, it's free and passionate sounds that we like, no matter the music genre! So, all the music we like goes to influence Kalashnikov's songs: this is the prescription of Kalashnikov's music! We don't like very much the bands that play the same music of the mainstream "punk" bands like Lag Wagon or NOFX, what a boredom, guys! Be yourself and you will play a good music!

"You can be a punk, but also you can be yourself!"

4) I have 2 of your releases; the "Romantic songs of dissidence" tape and the "five songs for few faithful friends". What are the other releases which I don't have? the artwork for both (and maybe all other) releases seem to be by the same person. who is he/she? how is he/she linked to the band?

Kalashnikov have made two albums: "Romantic songs of dissidence" (9 tracks, self-produced) and "Songs about amore and revolution" (10 tracks, co-produced by 10 labels). "Five songs for few faithful friends" is just a promo with 5 songs from "Songs about..." that we made for labels, distros and 'zines but it's not an official release. That's the reason why the artwork is so poor: "Songs about..." it would be only out 6 month later. Then there are a lot of comps with Kalashnikov's songs all around the world because we love collaborating with punk world scene. Kalashnikov artwork is a collage: we take inspiration from comics and movies, so, once again, all the stuff we like will be put in our artworks. The girl that you can see in the front page is "Paulette" from a French painter called F. Picard.

5) the song "Pravda the overdriver" is very catchy, and it is what made me sit up and notice your band. maybe you can explain what the song is about?

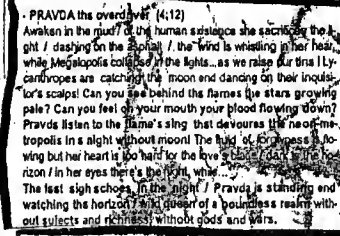
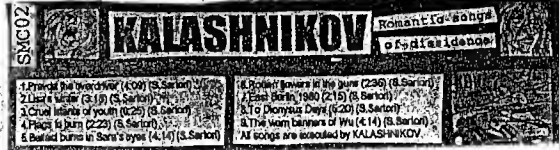
Eh, eh, Pravda the Overdriver is our best hit, I know... It's a very passionate song, very melodic but also fast, with a lot of different moments. The song takes inspiration from a comics: Pravda is a girl that lives, runs, and loves in a huge and grotesque metropolis. The songs speaks about contradictions, violence, materialistic thoughts and the pain that is deep inside the souls of modern people and so Pravda opposes feelings and passions in her way of life.

6) tell me more about these songs "rotten flowers in the gun", "to dionysus days" and "the worn banners of wu"... is KDV Records the label of the band?

These songs are taken from our first album "Romantic songs of dissidence": it's an adolescent album, that tells about wars and injustice, revenge and piety, sadness and friendship. "Rotten Flowers in the Gun" speaks about the lies hidden by the patriotism, the exploitation of young people by the government that send them to die as soldiers for their filthy interests. All wars hide the same things. "To Dionysus days" is an hymn to friendship and free feelings, it speaks about our "little piece of world" and "The worn banners of Wu" is a poetical song about human foolish ambition of glory; the inspiration is taken by a great king of the Chinese Empire. So, as the song tells, "what is left, now, of that splendour?"

7) you sing in Italian but how come you dont have lyrics in Italian? interestingly all the text that i've seen is in english. i'm thinking its because you feel that the vocals are clearly decipherable enough...

It's simple: the Italian releases of our albums have italian lyrics, but for the other releases we translate our lyrics in English so guys all around the worlds can understand Kalashnikov texts. Lyrics are very important for Kalashnikov songs, guys, read them eh, eh!



Day 13

The last day in Indonesia. Steve had an evening flight while I was cursed with a morning one. So I bade my farewells to everyone. In response, Steve and Ika mumbled gibberish while Marduk didn't hear me at all. I managed to squeeze out some directions from Didi who in the end offered to send me to Blok M, which provided a coach to the airport.

Really nice of him to do so. I bought him a drink and gave him all the loose change I had. It was the least I could do.

The drama didn't end at the airport like I wished it would.

Firstly I realized there was a Rp 100 000 airport tax which I had to pay. I had close to nothing in my wallet and only had access to my bank account in Singapore. But I had to pay the tax anyway!

The Valuar receptionist told me to ask the station manager who in turn told me to report to the officer in charge. I felt like a football, being kicked around the airport. They did everything except solve my problem. Until they suggested me borrowing money from a fellow passenger.

Good idea. Though it felt a little stupid. I failed at my first attempt but got a kind Malay guy to lend me Rp 100 000 to offset that fucking tax.

I thanked him and before long I boarded the plane. We looked at me and told me this airline is the one with the karaoke. I asked if he meant the singing stewardesses. He nodded. We both laughed.

I got down at Changi Airport looking like a mutant turtle with 2 haversacks and 2 boxes. Went to the ATM, returned the dude (his name's Iskandar) his S\$20 and bade farewell.

Guess what happened when I passed through the customs of the strictest and best airport in the world? Nothing.

The perfect ending to a crazy tour. I missed the food, the coffee, the nice people, the laid back lifestyle and the cute girls. So that means I have to come back again someday.

Thanks to everyone involved in the tour. Ika, Pam and Monika, Mas Aji and Ari Ernesto for putting us up, thanks also to Marduk, Ipank (I forgot to mention you in the MRR report thanks list...orh sorry!) Anggi, Edo, Nune, Ina, Gofar, Gita, Fertian, Sayang Imaji, Aca, Mandra, Ari Bowkore, Alex, Deden, Irfan and Ari Ernesto especially for showing us around and being my Anarcho Bastard Crusties session companion, the show organizers from Rontax Studio, Tobucil, the Balkot Collective, the Babakan Siliwangi show people, the Dago Pojok arts fest people, Shaun + Amy + Morgan, Ruang Rupa, Beng Rahadian the comics guy, Food Not Bombs Bandung, the Ramonea Tribute show organizer whoever he/she is, Tempequality Kolektif + Marjinal + Distlike,

Thanks also to Steve Towson and Ness for the free flight, friendship and trust to do this tour.

I am sure I missed out many names, I'm sorry I'm bad with remembering names! I thank anyone and everyone whom I had at least a conversation with for giving me a perspective and an additional lesson in life.

Indonesian tour Top 10 (in no order)

- the great traditional Javinese massage
- tehbotol
- Ika's place
- Art lessons at Tempequality Kolektif
- Crazy bus and train rides
- Mas Aji's place with his Bandung Cat Collective
- The football game at Balai Kota
- Democrazy shirt
- Kampungku...tinggal kenangan aling bag
- Every single person ive met and talked to. Thank you!

To find out more about Steve Towson, visit www.stevetowson.com

**JUMAT, 27 AGUSTUS 2004
JAM 7 MALAM TENGI!**

DI ruangrupa
JL.TEBET BARAT DALAM IXA NO.B1
KOMPLEKS KEJAKSAAN, JKT SELATAN
T/F : (021) 8300211

STEVE TOWSON
WHITE SHOES & THE COUPLES COMPANY
ANGKATAN UDARA
poetry reading by BUNGA MATAHARI

P.O. Gardena
BUSINESS TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

JL. SEKARNO HATTA NO. 459 BANDUNG
Telp. (02-22) 5226785 FAX. (02-22) 5226786

JAKARTA - VIA PUNCAK

kerusakan barang - barang

harga Premi Cover Rp. 60
per pemakaian

Rp. 25.000,-

ELAH MENGGUNAKAN JASA KAMI
ANDA SELAMAT DI PERJALANAN
ASIH ANDA TIDAK MEROKOK

It was then late evening and we had to make our way to another show. This time it was at the Ruang Rupa Collective about 20 minutes by taxi. Ruang Rupa are an art collective who has a space and are involved in various projects, mainly within the visual-art scope.

The show started at about 8pm with a resident hip hop group, Angkatan Udara, opening. I thoroughly enjoyed their set as it was something which had a motive, I could make out some lyrics which addressed social problems. No cheesy Snoop Dog stuff there.

We then had White Shoes and The Couples Company who played a tight set of indiepop. By then I was hungry and trying to balance my attention between the band and the fried rice vendors. I ended up having the fried rice while listening in to the band. Haven't heard DIY indie for quite some time.

It was poetry reading after that. We had some kids go up to recite their original works. Some boring some pretty interesting. Or maybe that's because I didn't understand half of what they were saying. I should really brush up on my Malay.

Steve played last, as expected. As expected there was an enthusiastic reception and response. He played one of his better sets of the tour here, dishing out material from his *1 Shot at Freedom* and latest *Straits Of Gibraltar* release.

There was the usual get together after the show and I was more bothered with having more fried rice. I also had some of the best tehbotol (sweet chilled bottled tea) on tour. Steve had an interview with Ika's sister which took 1 hour. Crazy guy. Who does 1 hour interviews anyway?

Day 12

This was to be the last 'active' day on tour. In the late morning we headed down again to the Tempequality Kolektif place. Apparently Steve and the guys in Tempequality had a mutual agreement to collaborate on a song. We got there early, while they jammed and I slept. Within an hour they got down to recording via some computer equipment. It was live recording. I didn't see like 250 cables like I always do when I go into a studio.

They used guitar, talbas and their voices on a song about the state and the military, with references to former Indonesian president Suharto and some Australian miniatur guy called Hughes. It was a pretty good result, anthemic unconventional punkrock!

Midway me and Marduk sneaked off to check our email at a 'Warnet' (Warung Internet, Indonesian for Internet Booth. They always think of cool names don't they?). We stole a trainride to the next station.

When the train arrived I ignored it, because it was packed to death (with everyone's faces and asses sticking out, and like an army of 100 kids sitting ON TOP of the trains), assuming Marduk would board the next one. To my horror, he boarded it anyway and told me to get on it. The train had already started moving by then so I decided to board it anyway, at the same time wondering if Marduk was crazy. So I jumped in, one foot on someone else's and another on something else (I didn't bother to find out what). And clinging on to the railings for my dear life. And yes, my ass stuck out into the open too.

I was beginning to enjoy the ride when I heard loud clangs of metal. Everyone got out by then, since we reached the next station anyway. I nearly choked when I found out that the noise was part of a gang fight. Looked like 2 rival gangs throwing stones sticks and everyone. They didn't care that a train was in their way. They continued throwing debris OVER the train. I felt kind of scared, the last thing I wanted was to be in the middle of a war!

Me and Marduk then sneaked across to the next platform and took a detour to avoid the street battle. Then when the coast is clear he smiled at me and said "Welcome to Indonesia."

I didn't know if I should laugh or cry at that statement.

Anyway things were OK after that. We got our emails done and returned to the Tempequality Kolektif where Steve and co were waiting.

Endroduksi
tribusi
Wah 500
blar.
ugroho
umbuh-jokja
die
mik-jkt
Ra
mic-Bogor
8-Sept-04
tal kemik
ciputra
15 02 04

MAL CIPUTRA
JAKARTA
FESTIVAL KOMIK
25 AGUSTUS - 12 SEPTEMBER 2004

Steve Towson @ Tobuci

Within an hour we were on the train (no crazy fighting fortunately) and on the way to Virgin Pub for Steve's last show which so happened to be a Ramones tribute gig. With 22 bands!

The entry was Rp 5000 which I could easily afford (that's \$51 for a 22 band show in a pub!) but was ushered in for free anyway. Somehow being our co-ordinator has its perks.

And well, it's a Ramones tribute. What else do you expect? Everyone playing Ramones covers and some originals. Guess what I did?

That's right. I dozed off.

I woke up, went outside, saw a fried rice vendor, became his first customer and had the best meal of my life. Then I went back into the pub. Guess what I did this time?

That's right. I dozed off again.

8) how often do KALASHNIKOV perform? how are your shows like? any interesting or unpleasant experiences in your shows? have you done any tours? would you ever come and tour South East Asia? Kalamnikov live is a punk live. Nothing else, only music played fast, loud and full of passion. Milca sings our songs with a very aggressive touch and all the guys of the bands try to transpire their passion with energy. We have played since 1996 and we have made a lot of live here in Italy. I remember with joy especially in Vercelli (a squat opened and closed by police the same night!) and in a Cubans party in Milano (as special guest of a true Cuba's orchestra!). Our main problem about tours all around the world is the damned money: we are simple guys, we are not rich so it's very expensive for us to travel all around the world!

9) how is the social situation over there in Italy? the government? the mafia? social issues? are there many social awareness groups over there? how is the left wing social movement? is there a notorious right wing chapter there also?

Here in Italy the things are going not so well: the right parties are at the government now and they are trying to raising up taxes for the low and the mid social classes, meanwhile the social up class has now a lot of taxation relief. The privatization is going very fast and many public services are now becoming very expensive. Anyway, the people here are now aware of this privatisation and we have many demonstrations of disagreement. Do you know what happened in Genova for the G8 two years ago? There were a lot of disorders, as a proof of the social disease.

"... I can say that I love my country but hate my government..." - Sarta, KALASHNIKOV

10) economically how is Italy faring? are jobs easy to be found there? how is the wage system? is it fair, in your eyes? are there many homeless people, etc?

The Italian economy is different region by region: Milano (Lombardia) is the biggest economical centre of Italy. Finding a job here is quite easy, but the pay is not so good, because the right government favours the upper classes. Anyway, we have a great cultural tradition, many of the oldest cities in the world with a lot of monuments and cultural events. This is the most important thing I think, because you can grow with a lot of great and different things over your eyes. With few words, I can say that I love my country but I hate my government.

white dawn of revolt
metropolis
the demons awakening
terror in the city of the dying living beings
the return of the triumphant heretic

suburban drama
the deserter
november lights
the prophet and the defeat
the worms of the earth

11) Italian soccer is much followed in the soccer world. Teams from that league are heavily supported even by people here. Is there anything about Italian soccer that you think people should know? hahaha... Soccer? What's that? We don't know...ahahahaha!!!

12) what are the future plans for KALASHNIKOV? how can people contact you? does anyone in Asia distribute your material?

We have release our second album "Songs about amore and revolution" for the Papekema records in Malaysia, thanks to our great friends Firdaus and Nazier, but now punk is outlaw in some Malaysian cities, so we don't know what happened to our Asian friends! Can you help us Shaiful, we want to know! (ed: from what I know punk is still strong and alive in Malaysia!)

13) thanks so much for the interview. Viva la Kalashnikov! Viva punk and diy scene all around the world!!!

KALASHNIKOV are:

Cinzia (vox)
Puj and Sarta (guitars)
Arci (bass)
Rissa (drums)
Don Suragn (Kawai-synth)



To contact KALASHNIKOV:
Stefano and Alessandro SARTORI
Via Verità n.8 - 20158 MILANO (Italy)
Phone: 02/39311646
E-mail: FRANCOSART@TISCALINET.IT

KALASHNIKOV
songs about amore and revolution

the stem of misery...

lately I realized this... why am I always keen on depressive music? What is it about the haunting melodies, what is it about the morbid artwork that enchains me? It isn't something I've been into recently but for a long time. Way before I even heard of hardcore, it was the gloomy parts of Metallica ("One" especially), the depressive soundtracks of horror movies, the epic feel I get when I blast Manowar, the stillness of the sun setting at dusk... things like these seemed to have the most impact to me. Which probably explains my like for bands like Amebix, Hlatus, Doom, Fingerprint and more recently From Ashes Rise, Remains Of The Day and so forth. They seem to just bring life to my senses, to motivate me, to ease and soothe me.

I dug deep and came to a somewhat vague conclusion to my liking of all this "gloomy art". It might have been the way I grew up. Now, it took me a lot of time before I decided to jot down and share a bit of my childhood in my 'zine. I realized that not any one of my friends know the real Shaiful Risan (apart from me being a stupid fucker with silly hairstyles). Granted, some knew me more than others. Some acquaintances have seen the less pleasant sides of me, while the good friends haven't. You get the drift...

I am an only child. Which is not really a common thing here in Singapore. But I was also a latch key kid. (which means when I was young I'm usually alone at home after school) Parents would always be out to work. But I don't blame them, never have and never will. My mom would always put me up at my aunt's place during the holidays. Maybe she didn't want me bored. Maybe she didn't want me sneaking into bad company in the midst of my loneliness (too late! Hahaha! ☺). Whatever it was it was good old maternal instincts. Dad too did his bit, sending me to my grandma's place on some weekends.

But crashing at relatives' places aside, I was mostly lonely and in turn got a little depressed. I grew up in Potong Pasir, a really small estate. I lived in a quaint part of the estate, in the innermost block. It was a quiet place, though a little too quiet. There was a park behind my block and the park interjoined the bank of a huge drain. Or river. Whatever. So needless to say it was pretty eerie at night. I had introverted neighbours who always shut their doors. My parents did the same, though I never really wondered why. The corridors were usually empty, and living on the 11th floor brought about a chilling quiet. And which barely surpassed the point of scary. Try walking down that corridor at night. Freaky. Especially for a person barely 10 (I moved out at 14 but that's another story). Many times when I got home from school there would no one home, and it was the same case as well after night religious class (no shit, I did attend such classes) or night tuition.

I didn't really have a playmate, apart from my neighbour who lived 3 doors away. His name was Tang Wei Kit. We played almost everyday, whether it was the Sega console, soccer, checkers or badminton. He probably kept me alive just by being there for me. And was an only child too.

Being an only child meant constant loneliness, which can branch out into many different things. It can raise or diminish one's confidence, depending on his/her environment. It can develop into paranoia, or breed a strong will. An only child can have many playmates, but the feeling of independence will remain because the child will realize that at the end of the day, there are no siblings to relate to.

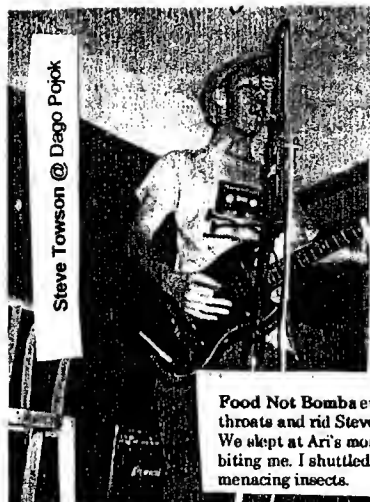
The early years of my childhood; being kept at home most of the time, affected my relationship with people. I became shy. And in the face of trouble I would back out rather than fight back. I was afraid - not of being beaten up - but getting into trouble and leaving my parents with a huge headache. Needless to say I tried to belong to lessen the insecurity. I searched for an identity but ended up confused.

I thought I was mentally disturbed for a while. I tried poking myself once with a kitchen knife at 7, wondering if I would die. Until I heard my mom coming out of her room. I was also talking to myself. No imaginary friend bullshit, just literally voicing out stuff in my head. I always thought that, when I was not looking, all human beings turned into ghoulish monsters with green slimy skin and had feelers, you know like fucking aliens. I wanted to slash my wrist to see how it would feel to have blood spluttering about, though I never did try. Interestingly I also watched what I say for fear of saying something wrong. In the early stages of puberty when I discovered masturbation and pornography, I wondered if there were any surveillance cameras in the house. I was a paranoid little fellow.

The religious classes I attended were mundane. At first I "believed". Out of fear. I didn't have any alternative way of life offered to me when I was raised. With time I began questioning things and eventually I couldn't be bothered with religion at all. So many rules. So many complications. So many contradictions.

I remember being made fun of because I couldn't recite prayers properly. I remember being picked on by the bigger older guys. It didn't help that I had a face people would make fun of. It didn't help I had a teacher who was biased against me. Maybe I was too soft and maybe too ugly. It didn't help that most of the conversations in that class were in Malay. I was and still am weak in Malay, since I grew up reading and speaking English. I felt ousted. I felt pressured. I felt like scum whom the kids would rather not have around. My suspicions manifested itself one day after a session and the kids decided to gang up on me and beat me up. For fun. I tried to run away (I'm a coward remember?) but was caught red handed.

Steve Towson @ Dago Pojok



Food Not Bomba even gave out some brew-perfect hot ginger drinks. It was perfect to quench our dry throats and rid Steve and me of our nasal mucus whatever. We slept at Ari's mom's 'abandoned' place (no his mom wasn't around too) with like a gang of mosquitoes biting me. I shuttled between the bedroom upstairs to the cold hard seats downstairs just to avoid those menacing insects.

Day 10

Today is the day we have to return to Jakarta. Ari and the whole crew that spent the night with us (Deden, Irfan and others) had lunch together. I had a delicious meal of rice, potato, bagedil, vegetables, tempeh and whatever else that was there.

We were then taken to the bus depot where we boarded a coach to Jakarta. Fucking tout said he would give us a discount, we ended up paying the full amount (forgot how much, but it wasn't that much. Still who likes being cheated?). We said farewell to Ari and I told him to keep in mind the code of conduct of the Anarcho Bastard Crusades (its an inside joke between the 2 of us, so don't bother).

We reached Jakarta close to nightfall, and everyone at the bus station were seemingly amazed at the presence of Steve. That part of Jakarta isn't exactly a 'touristy' area anyway, no white people seem to want to go there. I looked pretty much local (I get that too in Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. So I guess I'm a South East Asian posterboy) so I didn't get much attention. Not that I could be bothered though. I was tired and hungry. Despite all these though, we didn't feel we were in a danger zone. Most people just minded their own business, no one tried to steal anything or con us, though we had some salesman trying to sell us (and everyone else) a massage device.

Marluk kindly took the trouble to fetch us back to Ika's place. Temporary home sweet temporary home. And as I found out when I took out my shirt, I smelled worse than two rotten eggs put together.

Day 11

Another show. This time it was at a Comic Festival in Ciputra Mall, one of the biggest malls in Jakarta. Really a strange place for a performance (then again this whole tour has been crazy).

We had a reception of sweet cakes and some noodle-soup dish which was delicious! We then had some comic-related stuff with the curators, artists, management personnel and so forth giving a speech. It was pretty much an indie event, no corporate sponsors, nothing.

We had an opening band called Singlet which was an Indonesian rock band with all sorts of costumes. The vocalist was eccentric and agile and reminded me of the late Malaysian pop star Sudirman. I thought they were cool. Unpretentious, energetic and entertaining.

We had Steve up, and this time I did the translations. I embarrassed myself speaking in Bahasa (I'm very bad at it) and apologized profusely for any mistakes. Oh well. His set was pretty average, probably because of the surroundings and the environment. After the show I checked out comics, they even have comic zines on sale! Some really authentic local stuff, which you don't really get to check out in corporate Singapore.

The show was in this place called Dago Pojok. It lies smack in the middle of a village. It was, after all, a village event. A 4-day art event with exhibits of children's art (some competition or something) on one side of the road and music performances on the other. The show kicked off with a traditional musician who played the "kecap" which was some rhythmic percussion thing with some singing. There was also this really good and high spirited poet reciting some seemingly good satire, which captured the attention of the audience.

Steve was the highlight of the show. I guess many of the townfolk don't really get to meet that many Caucasian performers. Plus he has CDs out and goes on tour. No big deal to us DIY punks but to 'common' people it probably is.

He was welcomed with a rapturous reception and their cheers escalated when Ari translated the meanings of the songs to them. These common people probably felt and understood what Steve meant when he described the ethos of how work could eradicate one's ability to be around their loved ones and of course when he slammed war and George Bush. There was even clap and sing alongs. Including old ladies and their kids. There were some youths who asked for a Ramones cover. All cool. And yes, this time he had a microphone.

Indangan



Pan and Sam Rupa "Pambuk"

Dago Pojok

03 RW 13

Baburapa Sano Irfan

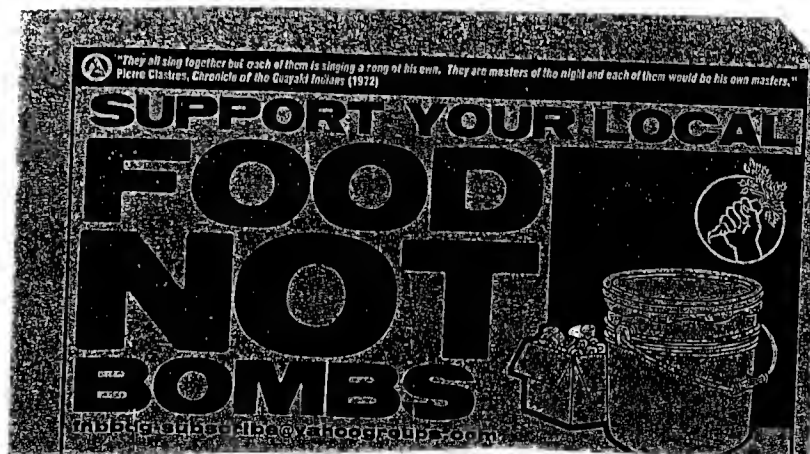
Indangan

Pambuk

14/25 Agustus 2004, Minggu jam 5.00

15/25 Agustus 2004

Dago Pojok RT 03 RW 03



By then a small crowd of village folk had gathered. With many little kids wondering who that screaming white guy was. But overall I sensed a great feeling of participation and interest amongst everyone, especially since by then the Food Not Bombs was serving delicious authentic *gado-gado* (a dish of tofu, potatoes, crackers, tempeh, vegetables served with spicy peanut sauce). We had the usual post-show get-togethers and a dinner at a Mexican-styled cafe afterwards. We stayed at the place of this guy whom everyone calls Mas Aji, who does art-related work. His place is etched quietly atop a hill with neighbours all around. Really nice place with a wonderful breeze after dark. He also had like 13 cats. That's like a collective of felines. Really cute furry beings. So you can say I stayed over with an artist who runs the Bandung Cat Collective. Hahaha!



Day 1
Off day. I was tired and couldn't even be bothered to wear shoes. I washed my socks and hung them on the clotheslines and more slippers the rest of the day. After grabbing some lunch and cup after cup of fresh fruit juice (their ice blended soursoop is the best ever), and with Steve having a silly haircut at a sillier looking salon, we headed downtown to go disc hunting. I bought some Playstation games for myself and my gamer-freak dad. Steve bought hordes of pirated music and I also bought a copy of *Maluku Satu Suro*, the famous Indonesian horror flick. Steve complained of nasal mucus and sinus and all that shit that comes with touring, and we had a traditional Javanese massage. It was this lady who was famous in Mas Aji's neighbourhood for giving traditional massages, and everyone who needs one would just call her. She charged Rp 30,000. That's like \$36. I can't get a massage at that rate in Singapore. So I wanted one as well. After like 2 hours me and Steve's backaches, headaches and him and his nasal mucus whatever were all gone.

Day 2
I woke up to a delicious breakfast of rice fish tempeh and vegetables. Yummy. Steve had another massage. His nasal mucus whatever thing didn't disappear like I thought it would. We headed to the fourth show of the tour, but stopped at a xerox center to copy more lyric sheets. We bumped into Deden who does a cool zine called *xLAPUKx*. He passed me a copy and I passed him something in return (I forgot what). So we got back in the van, Steve and Ari in the front talking about touring stuff and whatever while me and Deden started talking about some *axe* he punk stuff. Finally we arrived at the show. It was an odd place. Basically Steve was going to be busking. The venue was actually the stairs of a state-owned place hence the name (BALAI KOTA). It wasn't an official show, it was basically a coagulation of people sitting outside the government building and gathering to watch Steve perform. A bit like how some of the punks in Singapore used to sit on the stairs of the High Courts (until the bastard guards banned everyone from sitting there). Ari told me that the stairs are where the punk he collective in Bandung would gather and discuss upcoming shows and projects. Really cool place. I was a bit taken aback by the fact that the state-owned building didn't have guards and all that security walking about. It was open to the public and had kids playing football on the pavements. I would compare the strangeness to me and my friends playing soccer on the grass patches of the Parliament House but never get chased out. I ended up playing football with the street kids along with Deden. Man those Indonesian kids are good. I hooked up with one of the teams which seemed to have lesser people. I missed a few chances to score. The other team had a good goalie. Or maybe I was just lousy. Argh. On to the show. Again, no microphones. About 30 people gathered to observe Steve's performance, this time without Food Not Bombs. Even the guards took notice and sat on the steps to watch. And everyone said I reminded them of Arian 13 (of Tigabelas zine and Serinal fame). Must be the glasses and goatee. Punkrock.



* PAP PUP PAP PUP SMACK! KICK! *

* Adoi! Sakit lahi! *

* BUTO DIAM AH! *

* more PAP PUP PAP PUP SMACK! KICK! *

The sound of being bullied. By "religious" kids! All those prayers they muttered, everything they preached about being a good person. All that righteous stuff. But after that they put everything away. They smoked after sessions, they lied and quite significantly for me, they beat a poor helpless fucker for fun. I went home, trying to hold back my tears. Wondering what the fuck is wrong with this world. Maybe that's why I don't think religion is for me.

So I was bullied. It didn't just stop there. It happened in primary school as well. Bullying me for all sorts of dumb reasons. From my weakness in Malay language, culture and folklore. My physical weakness. Probably because I looked silly too. I was scrawny in school which probably explains a lot. Motherfucking god damned jocks trying to find a punching bag, a scapegoat. I'm shivering in anger as I type this. Fucking bastards. I never did anything. I didn't believe in fighting when I was young. I didn't have siblings pushing me to toughen me up. I thought the world was meant to be good and peaceful, like the bullshit in story books. Obviously I thought wrong. So they decided to make me victim.

Ganging up to bully me in Malay class. With yet another biased teacher. Assholes. Fucking assholes. Die you fucking sons of bitches! *Chau cheeb! kepala butoh anak haram sundal!* *Ptooi!* Yeah I know it sounds silly. Cursing them 10 years later.

The picking-on didn't stop even in National Service. But I was surrounded by tough guy gangsters with fragile egos and most of them had a rough upbringing. Fine. I looked like the smart alec in glasses. Didn't smoke, didn't drink. Didn't have a record. And I was educated. Not really their kind of guy. A lot of my peers had been imprisoned at least once, smoked like chimneys and were tough guys. Fine too. I understood where they were coming from, even though they never saw things from my point of view. But I didn't care. I didn't really want to end up with them anyway, and I'm almost certain they felt the same way so it was pretty much a fair deal. NS didn't really affect me, I even learnt how to toughen up a bit there (not from the training, but from resisting the clowns that make up the majority of it).

Unfortunately the after-effects of bullying from the early years of my life had already etched itself into my personality. Even now, when friends gang up on me jokingly and poke fun at me, I tend to take things the wrong way and react without thinking. I always think "oh shit they're trying to bully me again, bring me down and just insult my existence". But most of the time that's just my imagination. (at least I hope so!) Occasionally I've kicked things or hit people out of impulse, but most of the time I say things I don't mean. Like really sharp insults towards their family members (something which I DO NOT condone) or something along that line. It is nothing but an impulsive emotional reaction, something I don't really have control over. Sometimes I feel I can shut up and hold my peace, sometimes I lose control. To those who are reading this and feel offended because you've fallen victim to my stray kick or "mak kau peh puki" insults, I'm really sorry. I'm not a tough guy, not a fighter. I'm more likely to get my ass kicked than beat the shit out of someone.

Which is probably why I relate best to the nerds. In my eyes they're the real misfits. When I was in polytechnic and National Service, most of my confidantes were nerds. Yes, those silly looking, painfully simple minded geeks with huge glasses, *oblong* fashion sense and bad breath. But they were okay. In fact some were pretty intelligent. They were sensitive to their surroundings. They knew how to say thank you, and knew how to apologize before saying something potentially offensive. They might be an embarrassment at times with their antics but I learnt to respect that because hey, they were the most unpretentious people I knew.

Oh well. I get sick recalling my past. I should have learnt how to stand up for myself way earlier. I still feel self defense is stupid to begin with but reality demands it. I decided to be part of this reality - life. So I have to live to the fullest, with self defense or otherwise.

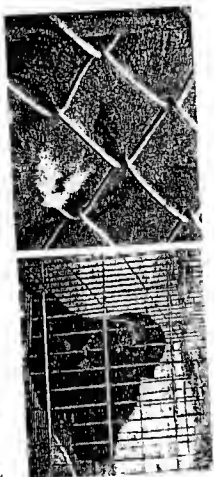
I don't feel (that) miserable anymore, I communicate really well now (I'm a self proclaimed sociable misfit... meaning I can interact with practically anybody though I never really belonged anywhere), and have a brighter outlook of life, bullied less (those bastards either grew up or are already out of my life) and have a huge zest for living. Occasionally though, I still get paranoid thoughts about people backstabbing and being weird looking aliens when I'm not looking.

But I don't care. Now you know why Amebix, Nirvana, Black Sabbath and the hundreds of bands they inspired are so fucking relevant.

Shafiful, late april, 2004 -

CAN YOU HELP?

Why Help?



Like us, animals have biological needs and experience pain, stress and discomfort. Many are intelligent and feel complex emotions like joy, happiness and depression. Studies show that they have family bonds and feel true compassion for each other.

But what they can't do is speak for themselves. So humans feel justified in treating them as mere objects.

By pretending that animals don't suffer, that they can't feel pain, that they have no real desire for freedom, to mother their young or even to experience pleasure by lying in the sun, it is easier for people to use them purely as commodities and ignore their suffering.

So every year billions of animals are captured, imprisoned, abused and slaughtered for human ends. They are used for everything from entertainment and sports to consumer product testing and food.

If animals don't have a say in their treatment, then it is up to all caring human beings to give them a voice, speak up on their behalf and end their abuse.



Our Mission

The Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (Acres) is a non-profit society, founded by Singapore. Acres aims to:

- Foster respect and compassion for all animal
- Improve the living conditions and welfare of animals in captivity.
- Educate people on lifestyle choices which do not involve the abuse of animals and which are environment-friendly.

We are driven by the belief that animals can feel pain, stress but they cannot speak up for themselves, thus we focus on raising animal welfare issues. Our approach to raising animal welfare issues is to focus on education and back up our advocacy with scientific clarity accrued through research.

Acres depends heavily on public support contributions. Help us help the animals.

Be part of a growing number of thoughtful people who care for all beings. Become a member of Acres who care for all beings. Become a member of Acres who care for all beings. Become a member of Acres who care for all beings.

As a member of Acres, you will be supporting efforts in improving the lives of all animals.

Visit www.acres.org.sg for more information or email at info@acres.org.sg. Alternatively, drop by our office at 11A Opal Crescent, Level 3, Singapore 328406 (Tel: 6296 7758).

acres
www.acres.org.sg

acres
11A Opal Crescent, Level 3, Singapore 328406

Steve did his soundchecks just to make sure everything was OK. It was. There were like a million mosquitoes inside. Even more punkrock.

After 30 minutes or so we made our way to the Tempequality Kolektif place. Again we went through weird places and weird roads. I struggled to find my footing, tripping many times since there was little or no lighting. I wondered if I was passing through a graveyard (it wasn't, as I found out later), it certainly seemed that way!

Then I smelt something fishy...

Hell, a lake!

We trudged cautiously on the outskirts to avoid falling into the public lake (open for domestic and commercial purposes) and headed into a village. Nice. The place was called Lenteng Agung.

Finally we arrived at the place of Tempequality Kolektif. Run by the guys in punk bands Dislike and Marjinal as well as the old Berontak Records, the place looked like a typical house from outside. We were greeted by some friendly punks at the gate who invited us in. I spoke whatever bits of Bahasa possible but was quickly distracted by the amazing interior of the place. Like Ika's place; artwork (both avant garde and political artwork) decorated the walls. There was a rack with shirts done up by the people in the collective as well as a shelf with tapes and cds and buttons and patches for sale. I went up to the second storey to find more punks in there, messing about with a computer and some music equipment. We sat down and introduced ourselves, engaging in casual banter thereafter.

Within minutes a bunch of university students came in. I was amazed at the openness of everyone. In Singapore there is an invisible wall with 'native punks' and 'normal people' with both parties thinking that the other is a bunch of freaks. Partly true though.

Anyway one of them (Mike) offered to bring us on a small tour of the place. He showed us materials used, artwork, their little library, their kitchen (punkrock!) and more. I immediately bought a bag (which the

collective made from scratch!) with the words "KAMPUNGKU - TINGGAL KENANGAN" (my hometown - what is left are memories) and a compilation tape.

We spent a few hours talking and making friends. I even did some translations for Steve (suddenly I felt so important! Haha). Overall it was a great night, we went back to Ika's place close to 11, feeling overwhelmed by this constructive experience.

Day 3

The day passed by without any concrete plans.

We planned to go to Tempequality Kolektif's place again but ended up being lazy. Shortly after lunch, we had visitors. Met the guy from Teriak Records and this friendly chap Edo.

Again we socialized, though me and Steve felt the urgent need to check our emails. Edo offered to bring us there.

We headed down to this hotel-complex called BLOK M Plaza about 10 minutes by bus. No punkrock bus rides this time but still cool. We checked our emails, walked around a bit, did typical tourist-at-the-mall stuff. Edo then brought us out of BLOK M Plaza to this little stall under an overpass bridge, only for me to realize that it was a distro! They had these silkscreened shirts (anti-BUSH, anti-IMF, a million band shirts) and they had tapes and cds for sale. A lot of fucking bootlegs though, with some supposed represses. Makes me wonder though whether the represses were legit or not. Only then did I realize there were a few buskers atop the bridge banging drums and tablas and singing along. I bought peanut pancakes from a nearby stall and went back to the tapes. I bought 2 bootlegs of two very commercial punk-based bands. Suspect your hand is one of them? Ask me. Hehehe...

Day 4

So we went back to the Tempequality Kolektif place today with Marduk. The nice folks over there offered to do some artwork with us. We observed and learnt how to do DIY art. We did some wood carvings and DIY prints, and we tried doing it ourselves.

At one point we all took a break for lunch. There were no plates just this giant old glass/plastic plate which has been thoroughly cleaned, and there was lots of rice, tempeh, sambal, fish and vegetables which everyone shared. We all squatted and sat on the floor and used our fingers. Classic Indonesian-Malay style. A communal meal. Punkrock.

Back to artwork. Steve attempted one of the designs done earlier by the guys at the collective while I stole the idea of a friend's tattoo. I finished first (I cheated, with Romi Jahat helping me out!) printed out my work and got bored. Me and

Marduk decided to bike around with the 2 bicycles that belonged to the collective. We made our way (I haven't rode a bicycle, especially those big ones for ages) to the lake. Bumpy ride. Felt rude vibrations up my balls. Urgh.

The atmosphere surrounding the lake was just so good. People were sitting down, chatting. Some fishing.

Some couples enjoying a quiet moment. Ah...ecstasy.

We rode back after about an hour or so of fresh breezes and more vibrations up our balls riding those rickety bikes. Oh yes, and I crashed into a fence. Me and bicycles don't get along I guess.

And Steve was STILL doing his artwork. Sigh.

We went home slightly after dark. Didi Empathy Lies Far Beyond zine joined us. Really nice guy, looked like he could have been in a Ramones cover band. He was nice, could decipher the dumb inside-jokes between me and Steve and he does a zine. He's punkrock.

We hopped on a train. Now the train is pretty punkrock too, like their buses. No doors, half a stadium filled with the carriages and lots of buskers and beggars. I was pretty affected at the levels of poverty by then. Looking at pictures of the suffering is one thing, seeing them in real life is another.

Art class with Tempequality

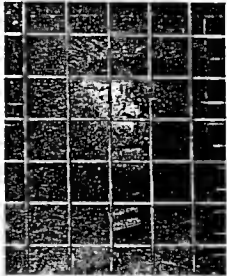


Wildlife Rescue

Since 2003, Acres in collaboration with AVA has rescued primates and reptiles from the illegal pet trade. Blue, the vervet monkey illegally kept as a pet in Singapore has since been successfully repatriated to Munda Wanga Sanctuary in Zambia and he is now enjoying his new-found freedom.



If the public witnesses someone illegally possessing or selling illegal pets, they can contact Acres at our 24 hours hotline: 9783 7782.

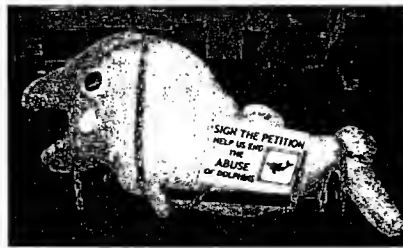


We conduct undercover investigations into the illegal wildlife trade in Singapore, including the illegal trade in bear bile and tiger parts.

Our findings are submitted to relevant authorities and we work closely with them to address and clamp down on this illicit trade

Zoo Check

Acres has conducted zoo checks on zoos throughout Asia. Our detailed report and recommendations are submitted to the zoos and we work closely with them as far as possible. The chimpanzees in Surabaya Zoo for example, got a new enclosure following Acres' zoo check and findings that the previous enclosure had a detrimental effect on their well-being.

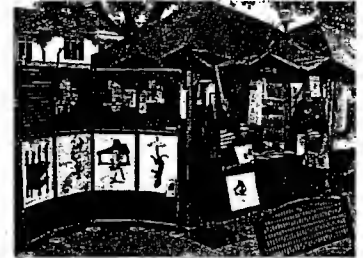


In 2003, Acres launched the 'Suffering, not Smiling' campaign, which aims to raise awareness on the plight of dolphins in captivity. Thousands of people signed the petition, asking the Dolphin Lagoon in Singapore to end the exploitation of captive dolphins. Supported by 44 worldwide organisations, Acres is still continuing its efforts in securing the freedom of the dolphins at Dolphin Lagoon.

In 2001, Acres did research on tourist activities which have a detrimental effect on animals. It studied what kind of tourist activities harm animals there and has since created an educational display to educate consumers on how they can make choices that will not negatively affect animals when they travel.



From 2002, Acres launched the Cruelty-Free Living campaign and embarked on an awareness campaign, educating Singaporeans on a lifestyle that does not involve the exploitation of animals, for example, not buying products that are tested on animals.



Talks

Acres has conducted talks on a variety of animal protection issues in several schools. If you would like us to conduct these talks in your school or organisation, please contact us at: info@acres.org.sg

acres
Animal Concerns Research & Education Soc.
11A Opal Crescent, Level 3, Singapore 3254

STEVE TOWSON "Straits of Gibraltar" Indonesian tour
Jakarta - Bandung (Indonesia)
August 17th - 29th 2004

Due to the success (artistic, not financial haha) of the Steve Towson Peninsular Takeover tour (Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand) late 2003, Steve Towson, the one man distorted folk punk machine from Australia looked me up again to tour Indonesia. He kindly offered to pay for my flight. A free flight to Indonesia! Needless to say it would be stupid to reject such an offer.

Planning it was a headache. Not too many punks over there have home internet access, and only a handful of them are able to converse in English. The fact that my knowledge of Bahasa Indonesian is terrible never really helped things. With time though, things fell together with a stroke of luck. I relied on 2 of my contacts, 1 in Jakarta and 1 in Bandung and let them string together a series of shows and made sure my schedule revolved around theirs (as it should be!) not the other way round. Interestingly, though not surprisingly, I found out that all my contacts knew one another! Small punkrock world.

Steve had a show the previous night in Singapore (on a shipover) with local acts One Mean Nation (folk/punk) and Self - Hatred (off key distorted solo punk) and it ended really late. The flights were at 7:45am Tuesday August 17th so after the show we decided to spend the night at the airport. A safe bet knowing that I can't wake up so early! Both me and Steve were scheduled to fly at the same time but on separate flights (cost factor), so with this predicament I sensed a crazy and unpredictable time ahead of me. Punkrock!

Day 1
I checked in at Singapore's Changi Airport very early at about 6:55am. It has been many years since I last flew and it was my first time flying alone (well not exactly, but you get the idea) so I was excited. Checked in both my bags with Valuair. Then I felt odd because I was the only passenger with no hand luggage, hence no access to my zines which were already going into the plane. Lucky it was a 1hr plus flight, otherwise I would be bored to death.

The journey itself was funny. Valuair was a budget airline which served good food (though they were due to expire within hours) and had singing entertainment. Punkrock.

I landed at Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International airport at about 8 in the morning. Only to find one of my bags missing. Fuck! Barely 10 minutes in Indonesia and distress about my hand. I lodged a complaint and was very affected by it. It contained clothing, underwear (important) and some tour related things and my favourite Digipore Far East limited edition shirt!

I was greeted by Vantani (aka Ika) of Pentil Pink distro and Art of Domestic Doktrin at the airport. It was really sweet of them to pick me up. Steve came along within the next 10 minutes or so and we all shook hands and chatted about stuff.

We then took a cab to Ika's place in Jakarta Selatan (South). It was atched at the far end of an alley of houses, adorned with street hawkers and little kids running around. Her place was brilliant! It was a two storey unit. The exterior was repainted with punkrock motifs, an evil looking Ronald McDonald, and loads of graffiti and street art. The walls inside were similar with pictures of that Dandy character and some punk rock posters/flyers. There was no furniture just a shelf with zines, tapes and CDs. Zines and papers filled the pigeonhole shelf in the first floor room, which also had kid's drawings on the walls.

I loved the place immediately. I put my stuff down, shook hands and made friends with everyone that came by that day: Martak, Anggi, Gider, Gita, Shaun (who was on a scholarship from Australia) and more! Incidentally that day was a public holiday in Indonesia, supposedly their Independence Day. I wasn't complaining though.

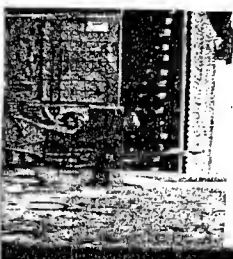
Day 2

Finally my brief distress ended. The airport staff called and told me they had retrieved my bag! I was totally happy. I kind of felt like a pussycat for worrying too much though. Then again I had reason to worry with so many important things inside!

Anyway Anggi took me and Steve to the place of 'Tempatku Distro'. We jumped on a bus in a nearby district. The bus ride in itself was fucking exciting! Coming from Singapore, with a smooth disciplined and world class transport system, the bus in Indonesia felt like a roller coaster ride.

Firstly the bus doesn't stop. It slows down for a brief moment and in that split second you jump on. I clung on the steps (a far cry from the 'No Standing On Steps' rule in Singapore air-conditioned buses) and held for my dear life on the railings, with Jakarta traffic breezing through just a step away! By then it was already close to 6pm; rush-hour!

We got down at some weird place, cut through lanes and alleys and took a short cut in a serene little village. We turned the corner and almost out of nowhere this little hut with a stage outside appeared. I realized it was Rontax Studio, where Steve was due to play his first show. I loved the location. Right in the middle of a kampung (village), you have a stage with coconut trees and little kids running about. Across the street was a railway station. Punkrock.



Outside Ika's place

SOUTH EAST ASIAN DIY HARDCORE PUNK... Ideas and thoughts...

The piece below was submitted to Chris Arise upon his call for columns on the issue of zines within the scene. I thought I'd share this insight with everyone...

Thoughts on Paper : the significance of 'zines as a platform of communication

Hello all. Chris asked me to submit a piece on the significance of 'zines in the hardcore punk circle and I decided to send this short passage in.

I've been doing ZEROX zine for almost 8 years, since December 1996 in fact. So far I've put out 9 issues with my swansong 10th issue currently being prepared. After which I will move on to a quarterly info-newsletter covering mainly South East Asian hc punk.

You might be wondering why I've put out only 9 issues thus far... You see, I've been doing this zine since day One. And I've never really had a fixed amount of copies of each issue. When I started out I refused to have a deadline, and I wanted to always put out an issue as and when I wanted. Reasons like cost and time factors also contributed to this. Content was never a problem because there is always something to talk about, to get pissed about, great bands to cover (ZEROX is generally - but not limited to - an international hardcore punk publication) and so on and so forth.

The beauty and rewards of doing ZEROX are irreplaceable. I never made any money out of this. Lost money? Yes. Loads. But I don't care, never did and never will. Contrary to what a lot of people think, I saw it as money well spent. Doing the zine in my own way gave me total control over what I did. As opposed to mainstream periodicals I didn't need to have an issue out every day, week or month. I could express myself anyway I want, lay out the zine any way I want, don't have to censor myself and I had the right to put out an issue any time I want. I grew up in an environment which kept me from being free, which told me what to do. When I did the zine, I realized how free I was; cutting and pasting small ads, typing, writing and drawing silly cartoons just to fill the pages. Somehow my conservative upbringing didn't seem to matter anymore. ZEROX was my voice, my offspring. It then struck me and anyone could do anything, anytime. Without permission, without fear.

This was further instilled in me by what I discovered the past 8 years, solely through the zine. I made all sorts of friends from all sorts of places. I traded zines with other zinesters, I read and bought other zines, I found out about amazing groups and individuals through the international DIY zine network (and many became really good friends!), I found out about bands from weird countries, people, ideas and lifestyles I never thought existed and many many more. Zinedom has a strong DIY element to it, because it didn't have to be formal. It didn't have to be offset print, it could be xeroxed, on newsprint or online, though personally traditional paper zines are the best for me. It didn't have to be typed. It didn't even have to be English. You could decide what you want to put in it. Music, art, lifestyle, erotica, even food.... Possibilities are endless!

Zines are also vital in any scene; hardcore, punk, metal, ska, garage, techno, etc because they act as an archiving media. People can communicate with each other by doing zines, and by referring to zines, because conversations can only get you so far. Ideas and thoughts and graphics can be referred to in the future and could potentially change someone's life. Friendships could be formed just by one person writing to another just by an address listed in one zine.

Zines in Singapore are fast stopping their presses, some out of a lack of interest, some out of a lack of time. It's sad but true. I'm currently trying to promote the idea of zines to as many people as I can, for they are the most under-rated aspect of the hardcore punk scene. Bands move people, shows coagulate people, labels and distros circulate ideas while zines cover everything listed above.

Indeed, scenes with no zines are like personal letters without envelopes.

So pick up the pen and plan your own zine now. Don't ask me how, just feel it and you can immediately do it. Your way.

I hope to read your zine someday...

Shaiful
Zerox zine
Lead II Nitrate
Rememories
Prohibited Projects



c/o Mohd Azmi, T 280 Jalan Siantan,
Taman Seri Yuhik Datar, 42700
Banting, Selangor, Malaysia
email: tempetrecords@hotmail.com
pleaceofshit@hotmail.com

LR 04 - Verve On Reason Live in June VCD RM 6 ppd
Verve on Reason play totally hyper grind. In this vid they played for a tribute for Ecuador with some other band. 30 minutes of footage what do you expect...of course full of grinding, a must for a grinder, tape release by Uglymokers Tape
Still available
LR 01 - Our Plea For Peace? VCDs RM 6 ppd
LR 02 - Fastgunner Demo + add tracks CDR RM 4 ppd
LR 03 - The Bellocian My Friends EP CDR RM 4 ppd
Wholesales / trades is most welcome, but do email or mail me first, for more detail, and other stuff that LR carry just email me.
Next in LR
EXTA : Discography [tape]
3 way split : Lamert (Belarus Fast Hardcore) / Splitface (Lithuan HC) / Self Made : God (Malaysia old school grinder) [tape]
Brutal Terrorists: Power Violence Not Dead [tape]

making DIY a threat again

Eastbound Downers : nagatheremin@yahoo.com
I have also saved an email sent by Chris Arise regarding updates on Thai hc punk. It's too long to be printed here so email me (address at the end of this report) if you want me to forward you a copy. The Philippines

THROW (ex-dead ends) website is now up! Old school hardcore. www.throw-ph.com

THE BEAUTY OF DOUBT had just finished recording the track to their upcoming release which title is yet to be announced. It is the follow up to their debut cd "everything ends" (counter-flow records/no action taken distro). They have enlisted some of their friends in Throw and Feud to do some parts on the record. expect some nasty stuffs there. The beauty of doubt, together with bands like Throw, Tame the Tikbalang, End of Man and Demiurge will be playing in the anniversary concert of The Manila Independent Music Collective which will be held on the 12th of June 2004. Everything Ends still out thru: thebeautyof-doubt@yahoo.com - enhanced cd (with music

video)

Out now on SULLENSEED Projects.
DESPITE Destroy your way of life CDr (grind from Wisconsin, USA) and DESTITUTION Live in Nancy CDr (hc punk from Luxembourg). More info at <http://sullenseed.fateback.com> Indonesia

Sorry no info at the moment but watch this space. I'm on tour there with Steve Towson during the 3rd and 4th weeks of August! It will be crazy!!!!!!

Well that's about it for the 2nd edition of APA KHABAR7. Thanks so much to Mike and the rest of MRR for the space and you for giving a fuck just by reading this. Cheers once again to the Basement crew, Kid Fastgame and Albert The Beauty Of Doubt.

TOP 10 MOMENTS OF THIS REPORT (in no order you fools)

REASONS TO REACT show

SELF MADE GOD Singapore promo CDr

SECRET 7 / JAHILIA split 7"

RAMBO live in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur! Roti Bom

Free entry to ZOUK in KL (long live punkrock free-entry bud get clubbers!)

Meeting friends from afar (hello James Drunkard, Olivier CBU, and MRR's own Paul Leanescki!) discovering MAPLE at Basement (great indie from Spain. Thanks Aldil!)

Jason Skull recovering in hospital

Jason Skull's nurse J

Piss laugh and argh kiss.

Shaiful

Zerox zino, Prohibited Projects

HanYewKwang

Lead II Nitrate, Rememories

Snail mail :

Shaiful

Blk 554 Bedok North St 3

#08-241 Singapore 460554

SINGAPORE

trashkore@yahoo.com

SHAIFUL @ BASEMENT RECORDS

APA KHABAR?

A South East Asian feature
3rd installment: late 2004

The report below was submitted to MRR shortly before this zine was printed. The layout hence my effort, for the actual report will only appear in the Jan 2005 issue of MRR

Warmest greetings once again from Asia. It has been a busy year for the regional DIY hc punk community here. Communication amongst South East Asian punks has gotten positively high, and some of us have been commuting almost regularly in and around the region. So much that the regional scene almost feels like one scene!

Next year will be even crazier. As I type, punks are preparing for tours for these bands; UNHOLY GRAVE (Japanese grind gods), PISSCHRIST (Australian scum crustcore!), PACK (devastating hc from Switzerland), S.O.L. (also devastating hc grind from Germany), MY DISCO (Australian post hc punk), AMBASSADOR 21 (Belarus digital hc). And these are just the bands that are confirmed! I am shivering with excitement just awaiting the final word from the bands who have tentative plans to come. It's definitely an improvement from the past decade where we had only 1 touring band every 2 or 3 years! Before you know it we could have on average, a band a month! This is wild!

By the time you read this Hungarian anarcho punks BARACKCA and solo folk guitar act RACHEL JACOBS of the USA would have already swarmed the region on tour!

Anyway enough shit talking. Lets move on to the main topic of this installment, the STEVE TOWSON "Straits of Gibraltar" tour report! With this report I hope to offer you punks a perspective of touring in Indonesia, the hugely Muslim country far too often linked to terrorism and immense poverty, and perhaps will dispel whatever insecurities you have about the place. It might not be a punkrock tour report per se, but it will hopefully shed light on what to expect over there.

In return, Chris submitted the report below for open use anywhere. Both of these articles (in fact practically this whole bloody zine) is non-copyrighted. Feel free to use anything here in part or whole.

Thailand Scene Report, July 2004

My name is Chris and I have lived here in Bangkok, Thailand for about 6 years. I run a small hardcore label here. I also do a zine sometimes - it's been a long time since the last issue was released - and I help to organize shows for visiting bands from other countries, all of which I will get to below. Over the years, I have written a handful of scene reports about Thailand, with the first going back to about 1999. At that time, there wasn't much to write about because there was practically no hardcore/punk scene here to speak of. But things have changed a lot since then and Thailand's hardcore/punk scene is bigger and more thoughtful than it has ever been. In fact, as I sit down to write this report I am worried that I will forget to include some bands/people who deserve mention. So before I get to the traditional scene report - active bands and labels and contact addresses - I would like to say this... it has been amazing to watch a scene here develop over the years. Bangkok is a city where there are so many negative things to get involved in... so much poverty, so much crime, drugs, etc... it is a city where impoverished kids from one technical school often fight with kids from other technical schools just because they wear a different uniform and sometimes even kill each other! So to go to a show here and watch a couple hundred kids from all over Bangkok, all over Thailand, from all different backgrounds, jump around, mosh, climb over each other's heads, scream for change and just generally have a great time with no fighting and no bullshit... well, hell, punk rock is a beautiful thing. I'm glad to be a part of it and I feel lucky to have been able to contribute even in a small way to the hardcore punk scene here in Thailand. A lot of people who come from countries with long standing hardcore punk scenes start to take it for granted. We forget that punk rock can change people's lives. We forget that there are some countries where the educational systems - high school and university - are so lacking in critical thought that punk rock and the ideas and politics that go along with it are vital and new and exciting. They forget that for kids in some countries punk rock is the only exposure they get to anything that questions and opposes the mainstream. ANYTHING! Ok... and on we go...

Prior to 2000, there was a longstanding underground metal scene here and there still is, but there weren't any real hardcore/punk bands. That began to change a few years ago. One of Thailand's first hardcore bands is License To Kill who formed in Bangkok in 2000 or so and began playing shows. LTK play very heavy and political hardcore with some old school punk influences. They have yet to release anything, but plan to at some point this year. Soon to follow were more bands - Superman, System Sucker, Vicious Circle, all hardcore with some metal influences, and then Pus Of Social, who are from a city a few hours north-east of Bangkok called Khon Kaen and border on grind-core, are very heavy and incorporate some traditional Thai music here and there as well. Shows started getting organized more often and more bands began to arrive on the scene. As is often the case with hardcore bands, some didn't last long and many broke up before releasing anything. But the whaals had been set in motion and for every band that has broken up or disappeared, one has stuck around and two more have come to take their place. THHC is alive and well today. License To Kill, Pus Of Social and System Suckers all continue to play shows whenever possible. And new bands such as Zealot (metal-core), Born From Pain (really good NY style hardcore), Innocent Blood (mosh-metal hardcore) and Failure Trace (grind-core) have also come on the scene as well as A-Zero, Satyr, See Sao, etc. CONTACTS - Pus Of Social: kxug@hotmail.com or kxunder@chaiyoi.com, Failure Trace: failuretrace@hotmail.com, Born From Pain, Innocent Blood and A-Zero: broken_foundation@hotmail.com. For other bands, contact me and I will put you in touch. Some don't have e-mail and others don't read or write much English.

While things were getting started here in Bangkok, a punk scene also began to emerge in Chiang Mai, a city in the very north of Thailand, about 12 hours journey from Bangkok. A woman named Sophie opened a punk bar and tattoo shop up there called Chaos City. Serving as a meeting place for kids up there interested in punk rock and hardcore, Sophie and the Chaos City crew started putting on small shows as well as organizing gigs in other venues. Bands began to form and now Chiang Mai also has a scene of its own. Chiang Mai bands have come down to Bangkok and played and Bangkok bands have returned the favor. Sophie also started a punk rock band of her own called Atomic Influx, and earlier this year they self-released their debut CD called "Sickened" addressing everything from the child sex trade to selling out to major labels. Chaos City eventually had to close as rent became too expensive, but they continue to organize gigs up there and Sophie now has a small diy distro so that kids up there have access to punk and hardcore from around Asia and the world. CONTACT - Sophie: Ironthorn@hotmail.com

Also, around the same time in the city of Khon Kaen, the singer of Pus Of Social, Poid, started a hardcore website and began organizing small shows up there. His site offers a chance for kids around Thailand to get some info about hardcore in Thai and Pus Of Social are very active and come down to Bangkok to play

sales, which in turn affects payment of rent. Pure friendship and punkrock ethics unfortunately does not pay the rent hence the inevitable closure of the store.

What will the future hold?

Just because the store in Kuala Lumpur is history doesn't mean the collective of the Basement "idea" is dead as well! Upcoming projects from the Basement Recs crew include a branch in Singapore!

lots and lots and lots of 5th East Asian hc punk releases. Some collaborated releases with like minded labels, and some re-releases.

Life On The Edge Records to bring you sequels to Blast From the Far East #1 CD with Blast From the Far East #2 with upcoming South East Asian acts like Fallen World (grindcore, Singapore), Democrazy (Indonesian fast hc), Self Made God (Malaysian grind), Failure Trace (grind from Thailand), All This While (Malaysia hc) and more!

Basement can still be contacted through sangsara_rec@yahoo.com

Feel free to email them for updates, trades, releases or to just start a friendship. Nice guys, trust me! Thanks to the Basement Crew for helping me with info and photos for this report: Shammir, Aidil, Karim, Mle Pendek, Am, Nazri, Mat Silent (best of luck in Belfast bro!) and the rest of the "maibuk terbalik" crew!

Updates from South East Asia!

Singapore

One Man Nation is a one-person acoustic act. Marc, the criminal behind it is also from punkrock band Systemless (which I have no clue about at this point of time, sorry). Has a neat 4 song demo cdr out. contact blm at unabslute@wildmail.com

www.LIONCITYDIY.com got off the hook recently. Initiated by Seelan (Fellow World, Yogyakarta, etc) and with volunteer work by many local kids who subscribe to DIY hc-punk, it promotes to cover and introduce the aspects of DIY music, art and (counter)culture to the new generation of Singapore punks, majority of which do not think punk exists beyond the music they buy off the shelves of corporate stores. The DIY idea is still fresh to many in Singapore (a lot of the older punks have 'grown up' and discarded everything they used to believe in) so don't be alarmed at the lack of creative and challenging ideas put up at the forum! The site is looking at doing banner ads to help fund some of its projects (gigs, etc) and get in touch! Email Seelan at fallen_world@hotmail.com

REASONS TO REACT, the official debut gig of www.LIONCITYDIY.com was a smashing success. Local DIY hc punk emo-core acts plus guest grindcore maniacs SELF MADE GOD from Malaysia! The only hiccup was a moshpit incident resulting to one of our friends, Jason, cracking his skull. Nonetheless he's okay now and even has a punkrock nickname (Jason Skull) to his credit.

GRRL FEST 2: Double Dare Ya! is the 2nd installment of shows set up by the girls from My Precious, Virgilio Violet and Mantra. Celebrating the involvement of females in music this indie-punkrock-hardcore showcase will be on 14 August right here in Singapore. http://gfsgr.rock.it

A.W.A.R.E.NESS zine and distro is a new proj-

ect started by one of the kids here. Finally with ZEROX having its last issue out within the year, it's refreshing to know there will be someone holding the DIY paper zine torch. Support! my_1232002@hotmail.com

YOGYAKARTA finally has a demo out and I'm proud to have released it. No big deal though because I could only afford to release it on C60 Sony tapes on Prohibited Projects (Demos). Fast simple happy thrash. Brings to mind bands like Intense Degree with lots of sing a longs and kiddy voices. US\$3ppd from my address.

XOBTWANKENOBIX is one man grindcore noise outfit has a new CD demo out. Tinkering with experimental and emo hits this time. subsite: xobtwankenobix@hotmail.com

SINK has a new demo. personally I found it to be better than their debut CD. good enraged hardcore http://all.at/sink

The SECRET 7 / JAHILIA 7" released on Thrash Steady Syndicate will tear your ears inside out. Bilateral fast hardcore thrash from both hands with artwork by Rohan Harrison of Australia's NAILED DOWN! Limited copies available so ask first! www.thrashsteadysyndicate.cjb.net

or thrashsteadysyndicate@hotmail.com also on Thrash Steady Syndicate... the new RECOVER CD! Sig along mosh hardcore. Enough said! Malaysia

The DIY directory portal online for Malaysian hardcore-punk-alternative music and culture. www.ricecooker.keirbeu.com. Set up by Joe Kidd (Carburetor Dung, AOE Records), also links up to the site of the recently concluded RAMBO tour of South East Asia

Donotconsume Records which once released the MASS SEPERATION / UNHOLY ORAVE Cd as well as some releases will soon be back from the dead! Watch this space for more info...

Punkrock band SMZB from China as well as RELATIONSHIP (Indonesian fast hc) will tour Malaysia in August. Check the Ricecooker site (above) for info.

New kick ass band from Malaysia to check out: SUARA ANAK MUDA. The first time I saw them on stage they blew me away! Reminds me of Swallowing Shit meets Hellinex with break-downs!

UGLYSMOKERS tapes has just released the tape of ANJING TANAH - Thrash Is The Path to the Dark Side. Indonesian thrash reminding us of Hellosion? ...well that's what someone said. I haven't had my hands on my own copy yet though. uglysmokers@yahoo.com : cactuadiastro.cjb.net DIYHCGALA series is temporarily off, due to a serious lack of venues in Kuala Lumpur at the moment. Aero Pub and Bistro which recently hosted a lot of shows closed down suddenly. Just wait for more info or email direct at diyhcgala@yahoo.com

New label! BULLWHIP Records! Debut release is the SILBATO tape (Italian screamo). Really DIY. Label guy Borhan is not to be confused with the other Borhan, the infamous rip off from Azalea who basically once screwed with gemm.com and sent Nick Crimes Against Humanity and many other DIY labels around the

globe into a spiteful frenzy. So don't be BULLWHIP Records is cool and deserve y support. C/o Borhan, No. 9, Jalan 3/4g, 43 Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor DE, MALAYSIA bogeyhnt@hotmail.com (info below courtesy Kid Fastgame + Propamedia)

FASTGAME: Now recording for a cd release with help from 2 labels. We got new t-shirts out. fxghe@yahoo.com

MASS SEPERATION: Working on our n split 7" with a label in Germany and also discography. Tak Mau Lagi 7", t-shirts and p still available directly from the band. mass_separation@hotmail.com

PROPAMEDIA: All 8 old releases out print! Rambo tour tapes sold out recently. N working on Secret 7/Jahilia split, Municipal Wa and Domestik Doktrin. Distributing tapes, c vinyls, zines, pin, patches and t-shirts. We a working on our zine/website, send stuffs reviews. propamedia@hotmail.com

FOOD NOT BOMBS KUALA LUMPUR: Our first video documentary took in the KL Freedom Film Fest 2004. Completing the work on FNB Benefit Compilation volume 1 and no looking for bands for the second volume.

WOMEN AT REVOLT: Will be co-released! Last Minute with Propamedia. Still looking for hands with female line-ups for Women At Revolt compilation. flowersofflame@yahoo.com Thailand

I cannot believe I forgot to include this in a previous report. Sorry... THE DARLINGS are half local, half expat band from Bangkok. They play infectious poppy loser-music ala T Ramones and they fucking rock. They have a CD out called "Waste Your Time". Nice guy thedarlingshkk@yahoo.com

EASTBOUND DOWNERS play upbeat poppy rock with leanings towards punkrock as modern hardcore. They have a CD out entitled "Deleited...". Along with The Darlings (and possibly others as well) they are part of BAM (Bangkok Alien Music Alliance). www.eastbound-downers.com or www.bamthai.com

Thailand is still smarting from the amazing experience of the RAMBO tour. Read all about it at www.elephanteyerecords.com

Arte zine #4 in the works! Probably the ONLY Thai-English zine in modern existence

Hardcore punk for the new kids in Thailand! Please support! Chris Luppi wreckagecase@hotmail.com (from Chris Arise the singer of Pus Of Social, Pond, started a bare core website and began organizing small shows up there. His site offers a chance for kids around Thailand to get some info about hardcore in Thai and Pus Of Social are very active and come down to Bangkok to play every time they have the chance. They have released a couple of diy demo cdr and have more plans for the future, including a project band called Tubkraden http://go.to/kkunder

SMZB from China will also tour Thailand in August 2004! Dates are set up in Bangkok an maybe Chiangmai too! If you are keen to tour Thailand get in touch with: Yos : leecic@hotmail.com, Chris Arise / Elephant Eye Records wreckagecase@hotmail.com and/or Stirling

Sophie (American punk rocker) she is based further up north of Thailand in Chiangmai. Can set up shows! ironthorn@botmail.com
<Philippines>

Emmanuel Jasmin (runs Resist To Exist zine and is active in all aspects of the scene. My longest running contact in the Philippines) emmanuelj@mail.com

Boi (scene veteran, screams in Aggressive Dog Attack and is involved in a bit of social work too!) boibaboi@yahoo.com

<Indonesia>

Ari Ernesto (member of Domestik Doktrin and can set up shows) ernestokore55@bdg.centrin.net.id

* there are loads more which I could list but I'm too lazy. Also I haven't been to the Philippines and haven't been involved tour wise with Indonesia so that explains the lack of contacts.

Then again remember it's a tour circuit, people will contact each other to make a tour work, so these contacts will definitely suffice.

Enough about touring. On to the main topic of this feature:

BASEMENT Records Store

When I was in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2003 for my first "punkrock holiday" to celebrate the end of my stupid National Service, I hooked up with long time contact Shamuir (ex 24 Reasons, currently running Life On The Edge Recs and Basement Store), staying at his pad with the rest of the collective, and among the highlights of the trip was the much talked about Basement Records Store.

The store was neatly tucked away in a quiet corner in the basement floor of what looked like a half-office half-shops building. Well it would have been quiet if not for the grindcore that was blasting from the speakers of, you guessed it, Basement Records Store (hence the name). The building looked fairly old, but then again I am from spic-and-span, too-clean Singapore.

The moment I stepped in I was blown away by everything I saw. Pucking neat posters and flyers of international hardcore bands filled the otherwise dull walls. Cool records and CDs and tapes stacked on hand made wooden racks with amazing prices.

Needless to see it wasn't my last time there.

I was back in KL in December that very year on tour with Steve Townsend, again crashing with the same cool guys and listening to awesome music and reading insightful literature. Again I spent a quarter of the day hanging out at the store

and talking to whoever was in charge of running the store on that day.

The last time I was in KL was the last few days of March and the first week of April this 2004. By then I had already roughly figured out the condition the store was in, modus operandi and all.

Like most volunteer run stores particularly within the punk spectrum, money was always a problem. My chats with the volunteers made me realize that a huge fraction of the sales in the store were from friends themselves.

This is also partly due to the number of active distros in the area of Kuala Lumpur and in Malaysia as a whole. Which is sad because everyone is affected. I have always believed that distros should work together and communicate so no more than one distro will bring in the same item. So there wouldn't be any silly "competition."

In addition to that, there are also rising social costs and people are getting retrenched all over the region, so the "spending power" of the regular punker will be considerably reduced.

With Basement clearly a victim of circumstances, I foresaw a possible closure or revamp of the Basement Records Store collective idea and decided to make the effort to highlight Basement Records Store as a benchmark of Malaysian hardcore, just in case my worst fears came true.

And on the 27th June 2004, my fears were confirmed. Basement had closed its doors. At least for now. But before you say "FUCK!!!", fret not for as you read this, planning is underway for a possible re-opening of Basement, this time in Singapore! Will keep you posted.

Things you should know about BASEMENT Record Store

Characteristics

Opened in January 2003 and closed June 2004 at Sub Basement, Bangunan Cahaya Suria, Jalan Silang, Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA

More than 600 titles in stock from all over the world. Releases from recognized labels like Havoc, Hardcore Holocaust, Flat Earth as well as hardcore punk tapes, records, CDs, zines from small scale labels/collectives the world over.

Huge selection of T shirt designs; mostly silk screened but all of supreme quality. I was floored by the quality of the prints and the durable fabric of the shirts.

Official permitted tape reissues of bands like ANTI-CIMEX, JHAI ALAI, STALINGRAD etc. Overall friendly non-corporate outlook. I've even

slept on the floors of Basement! Nice place to hang out as well.

The Basement Crooks

Basement is a collective enterprise of:

- Sangsara Records (mailorder / distro / tapes re-issue label),

- Life On The Edge Records (put out the Counterblast "Impassivity" CD, Blast From The Far East CD, etc)

- Donotconsume Recs (CD-tape label which put out Unholy Grave/Mass Separation CD, etc.)

- Rhapsodesh Productions (metal label which reissued Nunslaughter on tape, etc),

- The 2004 collective of:

- Pure Minds Records
- Cactus Records / Distro
- Ugly Smokers Records / Distro
- Noise Kontrol Records
- Degenerated Art Records
- We Print The World T-shirts

Modus Operandi

A sensible economical tactic adopted by the collective would be the bulk trading of releases with overseas labels. For example the collective would trade 30 copies of one of their releases with 30 copies of a non-local release from a label from Europe. With minimal wholesale purchases in its proceedings, the collective is able to sell those imported releases at relatively about the same price as a locally made release, with only slight increments to cover overheads. Hope you get my drift because I don't know how to present these terms in business language! At the end of the day all is fair and square. Punkrock!

Mechandise and music are all sold at a reasonable price. CDs for RM10 to RM25, tapes for RM 5, shirts for RM 20 and more! Also brilliant silkscreened shirts and buttons as well as the occasional zine.

Problems

As with most, if not all, stores that stock up hardcore punk merchandise will encounter problems with the authority/customs over copyright uncertainties (fuck copyrights but of course "they" will never understand what we punks mean! by that). Basement Store also had to apply for a permit which in other words is a declaration of what they sell (censorship in disguise!). It also came to a point where they would have to place a sticker on some of the music records/CDs sold (done in the fashion of the UPC code) to prove that they were "legal". Bah.

Also, as pointed out earlier, the fact that the core of the "business" stems from friends has affected

every time they have the chance. They have released a couple of dry demos on CDr and have more plans for the future, including a project band called Tubkraden. CONTACT - Khon Khen Hardcore/ Pus Of Social website: <http://go.to/kkunder>

In 2001 or so, a number of other bands started to form in Bangkok that leaned more towards the emo side of the spectrum. And in 2002, a small label called New Destiny Records was formed and they released a 4 band compilation which included the bands Young Sing, Stage Clear, Caught In My Eye and Dialogue From Drama... All really good bands playing emo. Following this, New Destiny released two full length CDs. The first by a band called Brand New Sunset and the second by a band called Crux. Brand New Sunset play really good emo reminiscent of a lot of Jade Tree stuff. They are very active and play often. Everybody here likes BNS. Crux, formed by a bunch of friends who go to an international high school here in Bangkok, are one of the hardest of the New Destiny bands.... Sort of new school hardcore with some melodic parts. They broke up for a while when one of their members went away to University, but have recently gotten back together and are planning a tour of SE Asia later this year. New Destiny also organizes shows, and Gimmie, one of the founders of the label, has recently opened a small record shop in downtown Bangkok selling new and used hardcore/punk/emo cds and etc. CONTACT - New Destiny Website: <http://www.newdestinyrec.com/>, with links to sites and contact addresses for all their bands.

Around the same time, about 2001 or so, a band called Eastbound Downers formed. Made up of ex-pats and Thais, Eastbound play hard post-punk garage-core (look, I just created a genre) with influences from The Ramones to Radiohead and they began playing fairly regular gigs in and around Bangkok. Over the years, they have self-released two full length CDs and are working on their third. In addition, Stirling, the bass player, has been very active in organizing shows both for local and visiting bands, and always makes the effort to include some of the bands from all those listed above and more. Another band, The Darlings, appeared soon after playing what is often described here as power-pop punk, though that doesn't really do them justice. They have one CD available, released by BAMA, a collective of bands here in Bangkok. More recently, a band called From The Makers Of Casablanca appeared on the scene. From the Makers is a female fronted band that consists of members of Eastbound Downers and Crux. They are a great band with tons of promise. They have a three song demo available that is well worth having and are supposed to be releasing something more soon. CONTACTS - Eastbound Downers: <http://www.eastbound-downers.com>, BAMA: <http://www.bamathai.com/>, From The Makers: voice008@hotmail.com

We have also been lucky to have some amazing hardcore / punk bands come and play here from abroad over the years... beginning with Code 13 (USA) in 2000, the first hardcore band from abroad to play Thailand, and continuing with Himasa (USA), that same year. In the years that followed, we were visited by Opposition Party (Singapore), Dregs Of Humanity (Australia), Recover (Singapore), Wojciech (Germany), Steve Townsend (Australia). Thailand is a poor country and it's expensive and difficult to arrange shows here for a price kids can afford and all these bands came here on their own money knowing that they wouldn't get paid much if anything and that fact alone did a lot to make it clear to kids here who are new to hardcore what the difference is between punk rock and mainstream industry bands. This year, we have had two great visiting bands already. First up was King Ly Chee, a really good new-school hardcore band from Hong Kong who I think can safely be called the pioneers of Hong Kong Hardcore. Then in March, R.A.M.B.O., diy anarcho hardcore punk from the US who did an epic tour of Asia and Australia, played two great shows here.

One of the nice things about the underground music scene here in Bangkok is that because the scene is small, there are not the walls between genres that sometimes exist elsewhere. It's common here to go see a show where some of the bands are full on mosh hardcore, some punk, some more metal and some more emo / progressive rock, all on the same bill. Hopefully, as the scene grows here that kind of thing will continue and not degenerate into a situation where every show is all bands that sound the same. Shows here in Bangkok have become fairly regular as a result of more people getting involved with organizing them. My friend Yos and I usually organize shows for the visiting bands. Yos is one of the most active people in hardcore in Thailand and recently Stirling (Eastbound Downers) has also done a lot of show organizing. Fah, singer of a metal band here called Plahn, also organizes shows. He has a club called Immortal Bar and puts shows on there a few times a year. He also holds a bi-annual metal and hardcore show here called Demonic Festival. Demonic 4 was just held here in June, with 13 Thai metal and hardcore bands. It is held in an amphitheatre here in Bangkok and this year over 800 kids turned out which is amazing for a show here. Also recently, Jay of System Suckers organized a show of about 10 Thai hardcore bands and all profits were donated to a foundation for disabled children. CONTACTS - Yos: leesik@hotmail.com, Stirling: nagatheremin@yahoo.com, Fah: Plahn_ex_metal@hotmail.com At this point, the only hardcore/punk zine in Thailand is the one I do. It's called ARISE and it was started back in 2000. It's in English and Thai because a lot of kids here can't read English. We did three issues. The



lest one was in 2001, but me and Yoe and some others are working on issue #4 now and hope to have that out by the end of July this year. I have asked people around the world who do zines to write about how and why they do them and why they think zines are important to a positive hardcore scene. My hope is that the columns will inspire some kids here to start zines of their own. I also do a small label and distro. Both these projects were born out of necessity. There is very little hardcore available here and imports are way too expensive for most kids to afford. So I started having my friends from NY bring stuff when they came to visit me here and offering it here for a reasonable price. That was still too expensive for a lot of kids here, though, so I started a small label called Elephant Eye Records and began doing cassette releases of bands from abroad that kids here liked. This made it possible for kids to buy records for less than 2 dollars US. I also trade a lot of it with other diy distros and labels in Asia to make more records from punk bands around the world-available here in Thailand. This year, we released our first CD, RAMBO, and we have a bunch more lined up for release this year. We are also working on trying to release a compilation of Thai hardcore bands. We hope to have that out and available around August or September. If we make any profits from the Thai comp all of it will go to starting a Food Not Bombs collective here in Bangkok. Contact - www.ElephantEyeRecords.com

There isn't much political activism within the hardcore scene here at present. Yoe and myself and the others involved think that starting a Food Not Bombs collective here and getting kids out feeding the homeless might be a good first step to bringing the politics of hardcore/punk out into the community. At some point you have to stop just screaming for change and get out there and try to make a little change. And there is a lot here that needs changing - poverty, homelessness, drugs, prostitution, corruption, religious conflict in the south, disenfranchised hill tribe people in the north, and did I mention corruption? Thailand has a rich history of student activism, but it seems that these days students here are more interested in getting the newest cell phone than they are in getting involved in any kind of activism. Hopefully that will change. And hopefully the hardcore/punk scene here will be a part of bringing about that change.

We're pretty excited about the Thai hardcore compilation and have wanted to do it for a long time. One of the biggest problems bands here face is money. Thailand is a fairly poor country and a lot of people in Bangkok make just a couple hundred dollars a month. Some bands have difficulty just finding the money to pay for a practice studio. Recording something is even more expensive. Most of the bands that have done proper releases are those that have the resources/money at their disposal and those that haven't done any releases have not done so due to the cost. We hope that by doing this comp we can get some of those bands heard around the world and put Thai hardcore on the map.

Well, that's about all I have for now. I have included the contact addresses that I have and I encourage anybody reading this to get in touch with some people here. Also, anyone can feel free to contact me at wreckageasia@hotmail.com. I don't always answer quickly, but I always answer. And any hardcore punk band considering touring SE Asia please get in touch. There is a pretty good network of people and organizers now in Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, The Philippines, Hong Kong, etc. and people will help make it happen for you. You won't make much money. In fact, you'll probably come up short. But kids throughout the region will set up shows and feed you and give you a place to sleep and help you get to the next city or country and you will have the time of your lives.

Stay punk. - Chris Arise

Elephant Eye Records

(Chris recently moved so I can't list his street address at the moment. Do drop him an email at wreckageasia@hotmail.com should you want to airmail him something.)

www.ElephantEyeRecords.com



SOUTH EAST ASIA

APA KHABAR?

(how are you in Malay)
2nd quarter report 2004.

« MRR #257 OCT 2004

Hello once again. My debut report in the May issue of MRR was met with really positive response, mostly to thank me for giving extensive info (thank me?! I should thank you for giving a fuck!) and a chance to check out the bands from this part of the world. Cheers to the folk who offered to buy or trade the SE Asia mixtape.

As expected, I also mixed up some facts about early hardcore in Singapore and Malaysia (which is why I don't like talk about it when I haven't got my facts right!), and if that wasn't had enough, I missed out some essential bits too. Cheers to Yahoo D for the corrections.

Also I will be continuously talking to those who were there in the moshpits in the late 80s or early 90s, and gather as much info on the history of Singapore, Malaysia and hopefully the other countries in the region as well.

These bands were an integral part of early Singapore hardcore; Mind Rape (Protestant (crust), 4 Sides (siempo hc), Down Syndrom, Bird Brains (early grind),

Sensor (grind), Rancid Decay (he punk) and Opposition Party (early punk. Also the first Singapore punk band to get on vinyl).

It's still cause for argument whether hardcore spread from Singapore to Malaysia or vice versa, but at the moment I don't care. I'm celebrating the activity of DIY hardcore now in the wake of the Iraq war and in the midst of the Bush administration era (which indirectly affects proceedings in this part of the world).

Also there has been an overwhelming response to my debut report especially when touring is concerned. Some bands have contacted me directly upon reading the report. Lump those bands together with those who have already planned to come to the region way before the report was written and we have a crazy number (a possible dozen) of bands from all over the world planning to come over to South East Asia on tour from now till the end of 2005.

Needless to say it will be fantastic. But I cannot emphasize enough how much understanding I need from those who plan to come here (regardless of who). South East Asia is not exactly the most affluent of areas on the globe. Currency imbalances are still pretty much obvious amongst neighbouring countries and more so with countries in other parts of the world. So you do NOT make money here. Be prepared to spend (fortunately, not much since everything here is so cheap) more than you make out of this tour. Take it as a cheap punkrock holiday and a totally different experience from where you are from. Do not expect tight schedules with shows everyday. Most kids who set up tours need to work or go to school or simply can't afford to string that many shows together. Venues are sorely lacking, and the saying "money does not go on trees" can never be more relevant here.

Recently bands like RAMBO (USA) and BATTLE OF DISARM, VOCO PROTESTA and POWER OF IDEA (Japan) toured the region...sparking crazy moshpits in Singapore and playing in front of literally thousands in DIY shows across Indonesia.

Updates for the South East Asian tour circuit

Those of you who read my first installment would recall that the theme topic concerned regional DIY tours and in particular highlighted a certain South East Asian Tour Circuit. The aforementioned "circuit" is an unofficial collective of individuals who have worked together (not necessarily on the same tour project) to co-ordinate tours for bands coming to the region. Being part of that "group" I also mentioned that I occasionally book bands who go on tour over here. And as for the tours I book, they will be run under my label PROHIBITED PROJECTS. On a side note, I would like to further clarify how I can help by with detailed explanations of how I am able to 1) manage and/or 2) co-ordinate and/or 3) help in the tours.

•Manage - when I "manage" a tour, I co-ordinate everything. Will travel with the band, I book every show, I will decide where to go, will do up budgets, get places to crash, highlight whatever that is needed, etc etc. I will also pay for my own transport and personal expenses. Should you want to reimburse me any amount because you think I deserve it, then I would gladly accept it but don't worry I won't expect any if it's beyond what you can afford!

•Co-ordinate - I will establish contacts and clinch shows as well as plan a rough itinerary, double check and confirm everything at least 2 weeks before the band in question lands in the region. I will basically do as much as possible related to tour "management" (see above) BUT ONLY if I can afford it.

•Help out - have a small scale role because in most of such instances it means I cannot afford to be part of the tour team. I can help score shows, be a correspondent for those who are not yet in direct contact with the band in question, help out and generally just hang out and show the band around.

Unfortunately I am not rich and I can only "manage" 2 or 3 tours a year, so if I come to a point whereby I cannot afford to "manage" a tour anymore, yet at the same time no one else is able to do so, the band in question must be willing to cover my transport (flight, coach) expenses at least. Cooversely there are other options (eg: a band can choose to be adventurous and try going about without a guide), and we all understand that no one in the punkrock scene is rich hence I can negotiate or help source out some alternative solutions.

Also please check out the list of contacts that help make up the DIY Tour Circuit.

<Singapore>

- Shaiful Zerax (that's me! Fucked up stinky tour organizer.) trashkore@yahoo.com

- Seelan Fallen World (drummer of Falco World and many other bands, loves to do shows,

resourceful and committed)

fallen_world@hotmail.com

- Falsai Homegrown Records (runs a record label and willing to help bands if time permits) badmon-go74@hotmail.com

- Jasman Minus (was a great help in the Wojciech/Glas tour, and now helping out with Power Of Idea and other Japanese bands' upcoming tours) minusriot@yahoo.com.sg

- My Precious (active band with members also active in shirt printing and setting up shows, an integral pillar of Basement Bash, one of the better DIY shows in Singapore scene history) myprecious.sg@yahoo.com
- Thrash Steady Syndicate (advocates of DIY hardcore, organized financially, sound technically. Members of Secret 7 and Jahilia and Recover. Enough said!) thrashstedsyndicate@hotmail.com <Malaysia>

Kamal Ishak (tour co-ordinator for the Wojciech/Glas tour, and done a few shows. Also runs Dratsab Recs/Distro) kamal_ishak@hotmail.com
Wan Hazril (member of Nyi Blorong and Self Made God, also runs Cactus Distro/Recs. An overall great guy) cactusdistro@yahoo.com

Nur Azri aka Buji (also a member of Nyi Blorong and Self Made God, was an important part of the Cohol-Tiala-Gauge Means Nothing-Steve Towson Singapore-Malaysia tour) ayiblorong_hc@yahoo.com
Sham (vocals in Self Made God, he runs a great tape label Uglysmokers Recs, close to the Nyi Blorong guys too. Resource(ull))

uglysmokecore@hotmail.com

Ahmad ASAS (can set up DIY shows for touring bands, also runs a label-distro) asas@excite.com

Papakarma Distro (was an asset in the Cohol-Tiala-GMN-Steve Towson tour, an active distro-label as well) <http://papakarma.cjb.net>

(NRW!) touring Borneo? Avail Records in Sabah can arrange for it! Don't know about the rest of Borneo (Sarawak/Brunei) but you can be assured of a show in Sabah! Contact them at iem_avail@yahoo.com or rub-mybreast@yahoo.com

<Thailand>

Chris Luppi (New Yorker who moved to Bangkok, Thailand, will set up shows for anyone and also runs Elephant Eye Records/Distro) wreckageasia@hotmail.com

Yos (a very active local scenester, speaks English too. Was a great help when I was in Bangkok, introducing me to nice people and also acted as a guide and translator. He's the man!) leesic@hotmail.com

Stirling (plays in poppy rocky band Eastbound Downers and has been involved in countless shows in Bangkok, fluent in English and Thai) ngath-eremin@yahoo.com

UP shows) fromhotmail.com

Philippines:
Emmanuel Jasmin (runs Resist To Exist zine and is active in all aspects of the scene. My longest running contact in the Philippines) emmanuelj@mail.com
Boi (scene veteran, screams in Aggressive Dog Attack and is involved in a bit of social work too) boiboi@yahoo.com

Indonesia:
Ari Ernesin (member of Domestik Doktrin and can set up shows)
entestokore55@bdg.centrin.net.id

* there are loads more that I could list but I'm too lazy. Also I haven't been to the Philippines and haven't been involved tour-wise with Indonesia, so that explains the lack of contacts. Then again, remember it's a four circuit—people will contact each other to make a tour work, so these contacts will definitely suffice.

Scene updates Jan-Mar 2004

Singapore:
• My Precious full length CD is out on Jahil Records (Singapore) and Karatecore Records (Malaysia). Insane emotive female dual-vocalled hardcore! Highly recommended! Email myprecious_sg@yahoo.com
or http://myprecious.rockslit : the labels can be reached at porchell_99@yahoo.com (Karatecore) and http://jahilrecords.cjb.net : this is Jahil Records last release before their merger with Thrash Steady Syndicate (with guys from Secret 7). http://thrashsteadysyndicate.cjb.net
• Fallen World, Singapore's nli Indian grindcore band has two demos to date and their 2004 demo CD is insane! Political, fast and furious! fallen_world@hotmail.com
• Secret 7 / Jahilla split 7" soon?! Check the Thrash Steady Syndicate site for details.
• Hudud have a new demo CD out. Sick DIY grindcore! Hududgrindcore@hotmail.com
• My label Prohibited Projects, hopes to release two demos within this year. Harkatrl (Singapore's upcoming hardcore punk inspired grunge band) and Yogyankarta (three-piece thrash featuring Fallen World members!) my email is trashkore@yahoo.com My zine Zerex will have its swansong #10 issue out mid 2004 before I focus on Prohibited Projects, let me know if you need info.
• Dead By 6 demo CD is out! Pulverizing heavy shit!!! zan_jiwang@hotmail.com
• It's a travesty! The JIAI ALAI CD is still not sold out yet! Monumental Singapore scream!

thaihai@yahoo.com If you don't get a response and would like to check this out let me know.

Malaysia:
• Life On The Edge Recs (formerly Do Not Consume and affiliate of Sangsara Records) has released Blast From The Far East, a four-way CD featuring Lead II Nitrate, Nyl Blurong (heavy hc, Malaysian), Opusun Bangsat (raspy hc punk with grl voes, Indonesian) and Aggressive Dog Attack (veteran music punk from Philippines, dnc collective@yahoo.com)
• If you're in Kuala Lumpur, check out Basement Records Store, any DIY hc punk's wet dream come true. Stocked with diy hc punk grind on all formats from the world over. Now collectively run from people in Life On The Edge, Sangsara etc. street address is (Sub Basement, Bangunan Cahaya Suria, Jalan Silang, Kuala Lumpur) PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY MAIL. Instead email the Life On The Edge people first...
• What the fuck is a DIY HARDCORE GALA? A series of hardcore shows, that's what! Gala #1 (Dec 2003) had in many good acts, and was the Kuala Lumpur venue of the Cohol-OMN-Tiala-Steve Towson tour. Collectively run by nice folks from every nook and cranny in Kuala Lumpur. More info at diyhcgal@yahoo.com
• This is a good site. http://caustidistro.cjb.net

Philippines:
• The Beauty Of Doubt is melodic hardcore and have released a DIY CDR which was recently reissued in Malaysia by No Action Taken Distro email the band at thebeautyofdoubt@yahoo.com
• Singapore grind veterans DEMISOR are playing the Philippines, the last foreign bands to tour there were the Container Crusties from Hell and Code 13. Contact Emmanuel Jasmin emmanuelj@mail.com if you want to play the Philippines!
• Sullen Seed is a DIY distro zine label and cooperative. www.sullenseed.fatback.com

Thailand (courtesy of Chris Luppi):
On May 1, Fah (singer of PLAIN / owner of Immortal Bar) will once again be putting on the DEMONIC metal and hardcore festival here in Bangkok. This is a biannual event, which is usually held at the Thai Cultural Center at an excellent outdoor amphitheater. DEMONIC usually draws kids from all over the country and is one of the biggest underground shows there. Is here in Thailand. Fah is hoping to include some bands from other countries and is inviting any band interested to get in touch. fight_tribe@hotmail.com or plahn_cx_metal@hotmail.com
• I'll go straight to the point. Support ELEPHANT EYE RECORDS. www.elephanteyerecords.com

DIY and "general" hc punk all over. The key foundation for the upcoming scene in Thailand.
• Future Traco is probably the first diy grind band from Thailand. Blending UK style grind-crust with Japanese hardcore (they also have an Indian vocalist and Japanese drummer) and a bit of their own twinks. futuretraco@hotmail.com they have a killer demo!!!

Indonesia:
• USA's R.A.M.B.O. will tour in Jakarta and Bandung in April 2004! www.ricecooker.kerbau.com/rmbu has info on the tour, show-details, dates, and a fucking map of SE Asia that I stole for this report
• Democracy is currently my favorite band from Indonesia. Fast hardcore with grl vocals! Trust me when I say this, if only they were from Europe, you would probably own their T-shirt. democracy@cbgh.net

MY SOUTH EAST ASIA TOP 10 for this report

- Embrace zine—all. And meeting Sahn after 7 years of contact!
- Everything about BASEMENT Rec Store.
- Democracy "They call me... girl!" damn
- The humor of being an BLAST FROM THE FAR EAST with the great A.D.A. Opusun Bangsat and Nyl Blurong!
- My Precious full length CD
- Secret 7 and Jahilla live singalongs
- Fallen World pruno 2004
- Basement Bash Dec 2003
- Dead By 6, Fallen World, WTN live sets @ Extreme Aggression Dec 2003
- teh O als Ilmuu (authentic ice-lime tea in Malaysia!)

I will put together a DIY mixtape of SE Asian bands for anyone who is interested. Just send US\$2 and I'll send you something. Ask for info on my zine ZEREX, and bands LEAD II NITRATE and REMEMORIES.

Cheers and thanks for reading

Shaful
Blk 554 Bedok North St 3
408-241 Singapore 460554
SINGAPORE
trashkore@yahoo.com
prohibitedprojects@excite.com

Credits
MY PRECIOUS pic by Tini
Map of South East Asia from
ricecooker.kerbau.com/rmbu
Sullen Seed flyer by Von Amon

The next few pages are made up of my South East Asian DIY hc punk features in punk bible MAXIMUM ROCK N ROLL. Thought I'd like to share this with all you readers. The 3rd entry (Steve Towson "Straits of Gibraltar" Indonesian tour report) has not been printed in MRR at the time this issue of ZEREX was printed. For info check www.maximumrocknroll.com or write to them direct at [PO BOX 460760, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94146-0760, USA]

MRR # 252 MAY 2004

"APA Khabar?" SOUTH EAST ASIA HARDCORE PUNK



Statement #1 : First Quarter report 2004

First off I would like to thank the MRR crew for agreeing to my proposed quarterly feature-reports on the goings-on in the DIY hardcore punk scene here in South East Asia.

I am aware that I am way off in terms of timing (this pilot submission was supposed to be in for the December 2003 issue of MRR, but I flaked with my crazy schedule), but I hope everyone forgives me for this.

Where is South East Asia? Also sometimes referred to as the Far East, it consists of countries like Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, etc. Hardcore punk-wise the only active scenes are in Singapore (where I was born and bred), Malaysia, and Brunei (which includes Malaysian states Sarawak and Sabah and nation-in-itself Brunei). Indonesia, The Philippines, and Thailand.

There has been the odd band in Brunei and even Myanmar!

A popular misconception is that SE Asian countries are in the same region as other countries like Japan and Korea. They are not. Those are North Eastern countries. And countries like Iran are Middle Eastern. South East Asian countries are full of coconut trees, not snow and deserts.

I also want to stress that these are not scene reports per se; I have written a few over the years and to be honest I'm sick of writing them. One reason is the tedious typing, another reason is that the Singapore hardcore punk scene has watered down to maybe just 15% of what it used to be, and to write detailed reports of any other country would be impossible—simply because I don't live anywhere else.

What I hope to do is to send at least one feature every quarter, with topics like (for example) The history of straight edge in Malaysia, or a documentary of the scene in specified locations like Manila or Bandung.

Every report will include updates of the scenes in each of the "active" countries, and perhaps someday, on emergence of a hardcore punk band in a place where no one expected punk rock would exist. South East Asian hardcore punk has been

around longer than most people think. I haven't done any intensive research yet, but from what I hear from scene veterans, the oldest scene is in the Philippines, before it spread to Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia. Proof of that would be the existence of Filipino bands like Aggressive Dog Attack and The Dead Ends. There have also been some records / tapes of late 80s thrash bands like Nucleonem (Singapore) and early 90s stuff from Malaysia like Infectious Maggots and I think also Martin Spike, which spawned an afterwave of the first generation of Singapore hardcore like Rotten Germ, Hawlout, and Stompin' Ground.

Luk Haas of Tian An Men 89 also released *Injak Balik* a 7" compilation of Indonesian bands. Then again I cannot say much because I was not around or naive in the scene until the mid 90s. I am, however, completely certain about the luck surrounding Thailand's scene. It is a scene barely a few years old and pretty much in its infancy, and a lot of credit should go to Chris Luppi of Wreck Age who is from New York but moved to Bangkok to work. He has introduced a lot of the DIY elements of hardcore punk to Thai kids, while at the same time he has pretty much remained on common ground, in the sense that he helps the scene there not for credit or status but because of his passion for DIY hardcore punk. Another gift for Thailand is that, despite its "new school" status, it has been able to witness a lot of good hardcore from other parts of the globe, with most bands taking a stopover at Bangkok or Chiang Mai whenever they tour Malaysia.

However there are traces of early punk and metal in Thailand. Metal has been definitely been around a bit longer with bands like Heretic Angel. And a trickle of early punk would be Traffic Jam, a compilation 7" of Thai bands also released by Luk Haas' Tian An Men 89 Records. Check out the Tian An Men 89 site at www.geocities.com/tam89rds

I hope that people, after reading this, will pick up a pen and write or email someone in SE Asia and help bring punk rockers closer to one another.

Also, to keep myself sane, I will mostly keep within the hardcore punk emo grind genre, though occasionally I will promote the odd prince/folk/indietonesque act. It's not that I like

in the DIY platform. This is not discrimination of genres, but please understand that it's only logical for someone to discuss something that they are familiar with.

On to the highlight topic of this debut feature:

THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN DIY Tour Circuit

As I mentioned earlier, there are only five active countries in the hardcore punk scene here in SE Asia: Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and The Philippines.

Bands outside the region have toured at least two of the countries in each of their tours—Australian grind bastards Warsore (1998), Damage Digital (Japanese grind, 2001), Container Crusties from Hell (Dutch grind punk, 1999 I think), Code 13 (USA hardcore, 2000) and more recently Rai Kō Ris (Nepali punk, 2002), Wojciech and Gilas (German punk grind and noise, 2003) Cohol, Tiala, and Gauge Means Nothing (all Japanese post hc bands, 2003) and Steve Towson (Australian folk punk 2003).

There were also other acts who have played in the region, like The Business and The Gloria Record, but they were all brought in by corporate labels, I don't think I want to talk about that, for obvious reasons.

There are bands coming over in months to come, like USA's R.A.M.B.O. in March and April 2004 as well as rumors of Japan's Power Of Ideas and Battle Of Dissonance coming over and many others still in discussion.

If you're interested in how things are done tour wise, here's the lowdown.

Airfare
Bands would have to pay for their airfare here. Economy-wise, most if not all of SE Asian currencies are weaker than the US dollar, the Sterling pound, or the Euro. And most of the scenesters are working just to feed themselves—very few scenesters in the DIY circle are wealthy, and even so, because of the currency misalignments, they are not able to pay for your flights.

sullen seed projekt



"I might be seen smiling but inside me I am crying
I give up trying and I end up dying
I shall not give in nor am I fighting
I keep on believing but still I am leaving..."

-http://www.papakarma.cib.net

INDONESIA

Domestic transport
This totally depends on availability. In true punk rock style, in some places there are scenersters with access to vans or cars and can ferry you around from place to place. Most times, though, you're on your own because a lot of us have to work to survive, let alone afford a personal van. With the exception of Singapore (where everything is fucking expensive), domestic transport is affordable, be they trains that take you in between states or buses, they are all very cheap when compared to the US dollar or Euro.

Currency
As I have mentioned, most of the currencies here are weak compared to the US dollar and Euro, and the strongest currencies are in Singapore and Brunei, since these countries are economically competent, with Singapore being almost a mid-America and Brunei an oil-rich state.

Food
Once again, cheap and easy to find. It's a bit tricky to find vegetarian restaurants in Malaysia, but you could always request for dish without meat. Vegetarians who have been to Malaysia haven't really complained, so that says quite a bit about food availability. Most of the food is hygienic as well, and the local contacts that you have will always warn you in the case of any diseases, e.g.: avian flu aka bird flu which is currently affecting regional poultry industries.

Equipment
Organizers across the region all share the same credo. Share the equipment as much as possible. This is nothing but common sense really. All bands, local or foreign, share the amps and drums and mics, which are usually rented out by the show organizer. If bands choose to change snares or amps for example, that would be fine but this is minor stuff and can be sorted out prior to the show. The only necessary things to bring over are your instruments and what have you. No need for

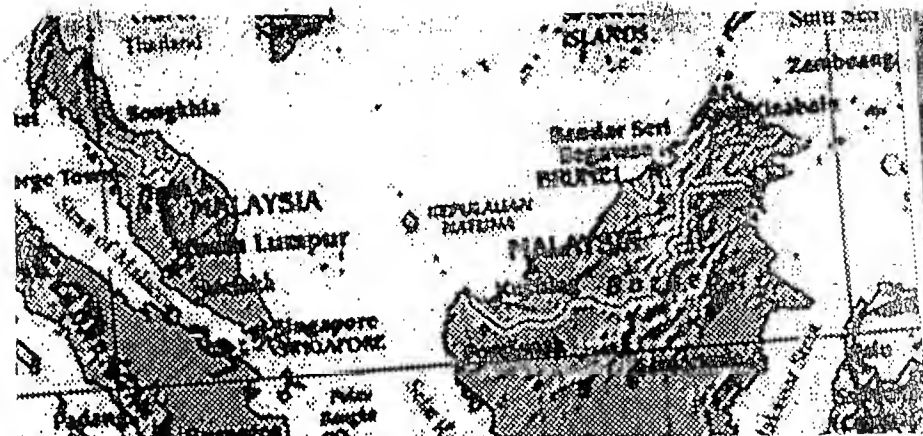
bulky drums or amps! Still if you are not able to bring your guitar because your kid brother smashed it against the oven, feel free to let the tour coordinator or show organizer know and things can be sorted out.

Language
English is not the first language of most of the countries. In Singapore, English is the national language, what with a combination of Chinese, Indian, Malay, and Eurasian communities. Malaysia's first language is, well, Malay (Bahasa Melayu), but English is also a second language. In the Philippines, Tagalog is the native tongue, but most Filipinos are also fluent in English. In Thailand, however, few people speak English, and those who can either speak it very well or terribly. Of course, those in the travel industry can speak it fairly well, but not necessarily everyone else. It would help to learn basic Thai before you step in (hey, imagine if you need to shit and can't find a toilet and need to ask someone), but don't worry, that's optional. "Sawaddee Krap" means hello, by the way. Indonesia has Bahasa Indonesia, a cousin of the Bahasa Melayu tongue spoken in Singapore and Malaysia. English is not a first language, so take note.

Accommodation
In true punk rock tradition, most scenersters can get you a place to stay for free. And even if you cannot get a place to crash (true for Singapore with most scenersters living with their families/spouses also partly due to the high cost of living alone in a punk rock crash pad) budget hotels are in abundance. For example, guest houses in Bangkok cost as little as US\$5 per night, and in Singapore you can get a reasonable guest house for US\$8-\$10 per person. A recommended place to stay in Singapore would be Ah Chew hotel in Bugis, with a coffee shop just downstairs and cheap vegetarian restaurants within walking distance. There are also plenty of guesthouses in the vicinity.

Peak Periods / National Holidays
With an abundance of ethnic groups and cultures, it must be noted that there are various festive seasons all across the region. The Muslims have their Hari Raya Haji celebrations, and one month before that it would be the fasting month of Ramadhan. The Chinese have Chinese New Year, and the Hindus have Deepavali and Thai Pusam, the Buddhists have Vesak Day and of course the international Christmas. You might say "so what, I'm punk rock and don't care." Neither do I, but you must realize that even if the whole scene is made up of atheists, the rest of the country is not. Transport operations will take days off, or increase their prices by 150% or stuff like that. Venues will be closed and people will shuttle back and forth to their hometowns for celebrations. Also, school vacations are long in the months of June and most of November and December, though I'm also sure that this applies everywhere. Goes without saying that students use this stretch of the holidays for cheap vacations, hence a haywire time in flight and out-of-state coach/ferry bookings in and around the region. So always check with your SE Asian contact about National Holidays and if your plans fall on a busy period like the Chinese New Year fortnight, take my advice and adjust your schedule.

Travel Information
Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand are three countries linked by land (see map attached) while Indonesia is a cheap flight or boat ride away and Philippines unfortunately is a not-so-cheap airfare away. Most bands, when they tour here, cover the Singapore-Malaysia-Thailand peninsula. Some bands just stop at these three countries for money and time reasons, and sometimes just tour Singapore and Malaysia (two countries which share the world's busiest inter-state border). Those who can afford it will then fly off to Philippines (Code 13) or Indonesia (Wojciech). No band has ever toured the Famous Five countries, but if you're keen to break that jinx I think we could have a lot of smiling punks soon.



Bands who tour the Singapore-Malaysia-Thailand (on ascending south to north order in the attached map) peninsula usually begin their tours in either Singapore or Thailand.

Singapore, which is a small city-state, is also the most expensive of the Famous Five. Bands touch down, contact their organizer, play a show or two and head up to Malaysia.

Malaysia is just minutes away along the over-busy Causeway; a bridge linking the two countries to each other. Most scenersters in the two countries have been in close contact for years, a result of years of diplomatic relations, and hence communicate well. Most hardcore punk shows in Malaysia take place in Johor (the first place you step in from Singapore), Kuala Lumpur (its capital), and Penang (an offshore island city).

From there bands make their way to Thailand. Most shows happen in capital Bangkok, and occasionally Chiang Mai, which is further up north.

From Bangkok, bands can:
• choose to fly direct to the fourth country of their choice (Indonesia or the Philippines),
• head north to Chiang Mai for more shows
• take a reverse detour to play more shows in Malaysia or Singapore,
• fly off to Indonesia or Philippines from Malaysia/Singapore, or
• go home

Budget airlines such as Alrasia and Valuair have just sprung up making it cheaper to fly domestically. It is a fast-developing industry and hopefully will help a lot in SE Asian touring, since practically all of their air routes go in and around the region. Otherwise it would be a bit of a waste, because Indonesia and Philippines have massive scenes, and I mean really really massive. The only way to go to Philippines is to fly, and its active scenes are in Manila and Davao City, among others. I haven't been there so I am not really in a position to document on anything, but I hope to do so soon.

As for Indonesia, it has a huge mainland and countless island masses with hundreds upon millions of people. There's a crazy punk scene, and

various DIY labels. From what I hear there have been house shows, street shows at 2 fucking am, and more. Also I have yet to step in there for hardcore punk reasons, though I plan to do so in April 2004—so maybe I can actually comment more on Indonesia's massive hardcore punk scene in a future installment of APA KHABAR? (how see you? in Malay).

Why do I call this a tour circuit? I call it that because of the close-knit network over scenersters across all countries involved, and with the Internet getting more and more accessible things will get even better. Interestingly, many scenersters who usually don't see eye-to-eye can sometimes even work together to make sure a tour works. So if that isn't a good sign I don't know what is. That's about it for the first installment. The South East Asian DIY Tour Circuit will be repeated whenever significant developments are made over time.

Here are some people you should contact in South East Asia with regards to tours here. The people listed have been involved one way or another in SE Asian DIY touring. Note that this list is non-exhaustive and hopefully you will see more names here.

Singapore:
Shafiq Zerax (that's me! Fucked up stinky tour organizer.) trashkore@yahoo.com
Seelan Fallen World (drummer of Fallen World and many other bands, loves to do shows, resourceful and committed) fallen_world@hotmail.com
Faisal Homegrown Records (runs a record label and willing to help bands if time permits) bsd-mongo74@hotmail.com
Jaaman Minus (was a great help in the Wojciech/Gilas tour, and now helping out with Power Of Idea and other Japanese bands' upcoming tours) minusriot@yahoo.com.sg
My Precious (active band with members also active in shirt printing and setting up shows, an integral pillar of Basement Bash, one of the better DIY shows in Singapore, scene history) myprecious_sg@yahoo.com

Thrush Steady Syndicate (advocates of DIY hardcore, organized financially, sound technically. Members of Secret 7 and Jshilla and Recover. Enough said!) thrushsteadysyndicate@hotmail.com

Malaysia:
Kamali Ishak (tour coordinator for the Wojciech/Gilas tour, and done a few shows. Also runs Dratsab Recs/Distro) kamali_ishak@hotmail.com
Wan Hinzril (member of Nyi Blorong and Self Made God, also runs Cactus Distro/Recs. An overall great guy) cactusdistro@yahoo.com
Nur Azri aka Buji (also a member of Nyi Blorong and Self Made God, was an important part of the Cohol-Tiala-Gauge Means Nothing-Sieve Towson Singapore-Malaysia tour) nyiblorong.jie@yahoo.com
Sinnu (vocals in Self Made God, he runs a great tape label Uglysmokers Recs, close to the Nyi Blorong guys too. Resourceful!) uglysmokerscore@hotmail.com
Ahmad ASAS (can set up DIY shows for touring bands, also runs a label-distro) asas@excite.com
Papakerna Distro (was an ass in the Cohol-Tiala-GMN-Sieve Towson tour, an active distro-label as well) http://pspakerna.cjb.net

Thailand:
Chris Luppi (New Yorker who moved to Bangkok, Thailand, will set up shows for anyone and also runs Elephant Eye Records/Distro) wreackageasia@hotmail.com
Yos (a very active local scenerster, speaks English too. Was a great help when I was in Bangkok, introducing me to nice people and also acted as a guide and translator. He's the man!) leecie@hotmail.com
Stirling (plays in poppy rocky band Eastbound Downers and has been involved in countless shows in Bangkok, fluent in English and Thai) nagahermin@yahoo.com
Sophie (American punk rocker! she is based further up north of Thailand in Chiangmai. Can set

